

HOME NEWS

Ministers plan moves to salvage Scotland Bill as Tories prepare for battle in the Lords

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Ministers involved in salvaging the wreckage of the Scotland Bill, which came to grief in the Commons on Wednesday, are to meet early next week to seek to repair the damage.

The intention is to introduce an amendment at report stage which will remove the effects of the anti-devolutionist amendment requiring the repeal of the devolution legislation if less than two-thirds of the Scottish electorate votes "Yes" in the proposed referendum.

Even if any new formula proves acceptable and Mr Foot, Leader of the House, manages to steer the Bill through all its remaining Commons stages, trouble lies ahead in the House of Lords.

It was learnt last night that Lord Ferrers, joint deputy Opposition leader, has been selected to head the Tory team when the Bill reaches the peers.

Conservative leaders insisted last night that the Tories would have responsibility over the Bill and would table only amendments they thought essential. There would be no attempt deliberately to delay the Bill to prevent it from reaching the statute book by August.

But ministers fear the worst, particularly as the Conservatives have chosen a strident opponent of the Bill to lead the party.

Mr Enrich Powell yesterday

voiced Conservative in the next general election. He also implied that the English should do the same to avert the break-up of the United Kingdom.

At the end of a speech in Glasgow Mr Powell said: "In almost every constituency in Scotland those who support or connive at the wrecking of the constitutional system of the United Kingdom will be opposed by others committed to oppose and prevent it, even, if possible, to reverse it. The people therefore, if they care, can save their Parliament, if they care."

As the Conservative Party is the only party officially fighting the devolution proposals, Mr Powell's remarks were being interpreted by some MPs as another overture to moving back into Tory ranks.

At the end of what has been a disastrous week for the Government, Hansard yesterday carried an historic report by the House of Commons Secretary at Arms, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Thorpe, to the Speaker Mr George Thomas.

The subject was the dispute involving three Labour MPs and two Scottish National Party MPs who were accused by some MPs of blocking the division lobbies in an attempt to prevent a Scottish devolution vote on Wednesday night.

Colonel Thorpe, who investigated the delay in the division lobbies, confirmed that the ministers involved were Mr Walter Harrison, Government Deputy Chief Whip, and two other government whips, Mr Enoch Powell and Mr John Dornand.

The two other MPs were Mr Hamish Watt, an SNP whip,

and Mr Douglas Beederson, SNP MP for Aberdeenshire, South.

Tim Jones writes from Cardiff: Attempts by the Government to undo the damage to the Scotland Bill will probably put the largely apathetic Welsh electorate on edge to be subjected to a bitterly fought debate by supporters and opponents of devolution.

In a letter sent to all Welsh Labour MPs, Mr J. Emrys Jones, secretary and organizer of the Welsh Labour Party, was bitter about the amendment stating that a Scottish assembly will come into being only if at least 40 per cent of the electorate vote "Yes" at the referendum. That he said, was absurd, dangerous and illogical.

Mr Jones added: "The decision is illogical because the outcome of the referendum will now depend significantly on the time of year when the vote is taken. Higher turnout is possible in March with a new register due in October or November, when the register is that much older."

"Deaths and moves, for example, can reduce the potential turnout by as much as 10 per cent in the autumn, compared with the spring."

"The amendment tied Parliament's hands regardless of the result. If 75 per cent to 25 per cent majority votes 'Yes' on a 50 per cent poll in Scotland there will be no assembly. Yet, if the poll is 80 per cent with a 50.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent majority saying 'Yes', the assembly will go ahead."

Westminster waits, page 14

British Rail's management explains what can and cannot be done

London commuters get chance to complain

By Alan Hamilton

London commuters are being given an opportunity to discuss their train services with senior British Rail managers at open meetings organized by the *Evening Standard*. On Thursday night a group of travellers on lines into Waterloo spoke of their concerns about rising fares, changed timetables, cold trains, and dirty stations.

The management side at the meeting in a room at the Festival Hall was led by Mr Lon Edwards, south western divisional manager of Southern Region.

The only commuter train that matters is the one you travel on and despite entreaties from the chair to confine the questioning to general policy, it leant heavily towards the particular. Dirty walls are nothing to the six or eight connections at Waterloo and the dreaded stop at Woking.

Mr Stockwood, of Redhill, wanted to know why the six

o'clock now stopped at Woking, and why the Redhill train had been brought forward by two minutes and asked why it could not go back to 38 minutes past.

"When you make any changes," Mr Edwards replied, "some people do suffer and you, sir, are one of them."

Mr Wood, of Witley, wanted to know why they insisted on stopping trains at Woking when they were already full at Godalming. Some people, the man responsible retorted, actually want to go to Woking.

"I am going to talk to you about principle," a spokesman for the £68, from Claygate announced grandly. "You take £272 from me. I think you are cynical, sir. You take away seats by introducing first class on a train which is already packed at Claygate."

First class was being reduced on some lines, Mr Edwards said. "A positive advance, sir," said the £68 spokesman.

Mr Davis, of an unspecified station but transparently a railway enthusiast, had a plan. "Close all but the main stations and have faster services. It would be cheaper to run, attract more passengers and make fares cheaper." Good news for Guildford, had news for Lipbook, Mr Edwards said.

"I want to ask you about trains from Epsom to Waterloo between 7.10 and 7.40," Mr White said. "There aren't any." Mr Scolding of Horsham, wanted last year's timetable back, and was unimpressed by a promised two-minute cut in the journey to town by next year. "It was faster before the war," he muttered.

A strong lobby from Haslemere, a notably militant station, complained about nearly everything, especially fares and cold trains. Mr Bradley said he had kicked a piece of ice off his shoe that very morning and it had taken 10 minutes to melt on the heater. Mr Williams

from Bournemouth took down the number of his cold train, 3006, and received a promise that it would be looked at the very next morning.

Mr Edwards, suspected of not consulting the travellers when he made changes to the timetable, said it was difficult but he welcomed commuters' associations and action groups as a means of keeping in touch with his public. "We have provided a jolly good rapport with the management," Mr Cox, of the Alton line users' association, said.

After an hour and a quarter filled with explanations about the decline of waiting rooms, promises to introduce more non-smoking compartments, and the problems of having £18m lopped from the railway budget by the Government, the audience left in a scramble for Waterloo with Mr Edwards's warning of impending cancellations west of Surbiton because of a landslide ringing in their ears.

Bus and Underground fare increases planned

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

London bus and underground fares will rise by an average of 10 per cent in June, provided approval is given. The increase is in line with inflation and government guidelines, London Transport said.

The cheapest bus ride will cost 5p, nearly three times the level of five years ago and five times the 4d level of 10 years ago.

Underground fares will remain the same at 5p, 10p, 15p etc, but will buy shorter journeys.

Season tickets will rise by up to a fifth and by an average of 11 per cent. The proposals are designed to raise an extra £13m in the remainder of this year and £25m in a full year.

The new scale of bus fares will be 5p, 10p, 15p, 20p and 25p. The Red Bus, giving up and down services on Red Arrow and suburban services will go up from 10p to 12p, and prepaid tickets from 50p for eight rides to £1 for 15 rides.

Meeting in the House of Commons, the confederation asked its president, Mrs Joyce Butler, MP, to raise the matter with Mr Rodgers, Secretary of

State for transport, and in seek better consumer representation.

GLC views: The Greater London Council, which directed London Transport to raise fares from June 10 may reject proposals affecting concessionary fares for pensioners and children (the Press Association reports).

Mr Harold More, chairman of the council's London Transport committee, said yesterday: "We have no intention of altering our present concessions for senior citizens. The proposed increase of 25 per cent is quite unjustified."

Stonehouse creditors to get small dividend

By David Nicholson-Lord

John Stonehouse, the jailed former minister, said at London Bankruptcy Court yesterday that he would have survived the crisis in his financial affairs if he had not suffered a nervous breakdown.

He said the cause of bankruptcy was the piling of financial demands at a time when he was physically and mentally unable to cope with them.

"If I had not had a breakdown and had been in control of ongoing companies it would have been no bankruptcy," he added. "I was bankrupted by the crisis in 1974-75 as so many other men who were in my position financial embarrassment at that time would have done."

Mr Stonehouse, who is serving a seven-year sentence for theft and false pretences, brought from Blundstone open prison, Suffolk, for final public examination bankruptcy. The examination was concluded. Mr Stonehouse had to "reap the fruits of his discharging."

Mr James Tye, the official receiver, said the dividend to be paid to creditors was likely to be small. Mr Stonehouse asserted that he was not in the pound, and he had gross debt claims of £286,115. His admitted deficiency was £120,000.

Mrs Sheila Bowley, Stonehouse's former secretary, said she was not present at the proceedings. The couple briefly before his appearance. Later she said that Mr Stonehouse, who was divorced, was in better shape as a coroner's witness and was eligible for parole September.

Mr Stonehouse was quoted as saying 14 years ago against his companies amounting to £729,000. He said of those related to the firms, he was not aware of any being activated. Although thought they had been, he said the general forms were found on file as his breakdown and interim to be his personal liability.

Mr Tye said Mr Stonehouse had been with some money without keeping sound records. The low dividend expected was a "settlement" of his affairs, a businessman.

Mr Tye said after the hearing that a gold model of a car, presented to Stonehouse when he was Minister of Aviation, had recovered from his wife. The model, made by the jewellers, was the subject of exchanges at last hearing and is to be sold. It has not yet valued.

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The police and the Chapmans are annoyed at innuendoes they feel have been made in some newspapers. A notice on the front door of the house says: "Vernon's comment. Please leave us alone."

The dig was carried out apparently after a request by Mrs Chapman while being visited by the officers. They were there to obtain material that might help to identify the boy should he be found dead.

The boy's life being made unbearable by gossip. Writing in the local newspaper, he said: "Gossips have accused me of killing my stepson, Lester. They say I knocked him about once too often and he died. They say I took his body away and buried it."

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Tories 'more in tune than Labour'

Continued from page 1

unions must be education, persuasion, debate and trust. Above all, he added, the Government and the unions must avoid any resort to the law simply to promote or protect particularly narrow interests.

The function of the law was not to further sectional interests but to uphold and guarantee the basic rights and freedoms that applied throughout society. He said that for understandable reasons the unions had been reluctant to respect the law in areas involved in industrial relations.

Although Mr Prior was conciliatory, his approach in industrial relations clearly did not indicate unions being allowed a completely free rein. He deplored a tendency which potentially disturbing consequences by which unions were trying to use the law to gain a privileged position while refusing to accept the responsibilities and obligations that might be placed on them in return.

He told the House that the spirit of the law operated in two ways and in the Grunwick dispute he felt that Mr George Ward was greatly mistaken not to accept the advice of Lord Scarman. In spite of certain reservations, he felt that the Arbitration Service must continue, as it had an important part to play in industrial relations.

The Conservatives, he went on, would not look at the law as it affected recognition disputes and the role of ACAS in these matters. If Britain was ever going to set industrial relations on a proper basis it had to accept that there was a need for even-handedness.

Accepting that there was not total agreement within the Conservative Party over the closed shop, Mr Prior contended that his party was far more representative of the views of the nation on that subject than the Labour Party.

The Conservatives realized the desperate state of industrial relations and recognized that Britain's failure to achieve the success and prosperity that other countries had managed was not the fault only of the unions.

Mr Prior ended with the assertion that the Conservative Party was much more in tune than the Labour Party with the true feelings of industrial democracy.

Parliamentary report, page 3

Healey forecast of 1m new jobs

From Ronald Faux

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday predicted a big improvement in the British economy, with between half a million and a million new jobs and an improvement in the balance of payments of about £2,500m by 1980.

Addressing a Newspaper Press Fund luncheon in Glasgow, he said that the improvement would be quite independent of the benefits of North Sea oil.

The National Economic Development Council would be discussing next week the last 12 months' work by industrialists, trade unionists and officials in the 40 key sectors covering nearly half of Britain's manufacturing industry.

Those groups had concluded that productivity could be increased sufficiently to improve the balance of payments by about £2,500m by 1980, Mr Healey said.

Although employment was not likely to increase greatly from such improvements in productivity, the balance of payments benefit they generated

should enable the Government to run the economy at a level of demand sufficient to produce the new jobs.

Many of the jobs would be in the private and public service sectors. Encouragement would be given to improve the growth of new and more competitive industries.

Mr Healey said the Government would shortly be publishing its views on what he said Britain should make of the benefits flowing from North Sea oil over the next ten or twenty years.

By easing balance of payments pressures North Sea oil offered Britain, he said, a chance to prosper and a longer period of sustained demand for its products than we have known since the war. The Chancellor said, but the benefits to the next generation, which would not have the advantages of North Sea oil, would depend on how industrial performance was improved in the meantime.

"This means a big increase in industrial investment. It also means making better use of our investment than we have in the past."

Morecambe and Wise move to Thames TV

After 10 years with the BBC, during which their shows achieved some of the highest ratings, Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise have signed a two-year exclusive contract with Thames Television.

They will make four television shows and a cinema film for Euston Films, a Thames production company.

London Weekend Television said yesterday that it had signed Arthur Lowe, Captain Mainwaring in BBC's *Dad's Army*, to play a priest in a series, *Bless Me Father*, adapted from novels by Peter de Vries.

The Sports Council is to re-advertise the position of director, which becomes vacant when Sir Walter Winterbottom retires on March 31. The Rev Nicholas Stacey had been nominated by the council as his successor but Mr Howell, Minister responsible for sport, refused to ratify the appointment.

Warning of a slow retreat by doctors from NHS

The Government was putting its head in the sand if it refused to consider any alternative method of financing the National Health Service, Dr Elston Grey-Turner, secretary of the British Medical Association, said last night.

He feared that a consistently negative attitude by the Government might lead to a slow retreat from the NHS by a disillusioned medical profession.

"I am not talking about anything very dramatic," Dr Grey-Turner said. "It is a slow retreat from the NHS by a disillusioned medical profession. But if present attitudes prevail we may see a very different picture in five years' time, one which I would not welcome but which could result in some of the best medicine being removed from the public sector to the detriment of the kind of service which the public has come to expect."

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, had stated, Dr Grey-Turner said, that he could not find enough money to fund the NHS.

"If there is a limited amount available for the health service, surely any government that is

worried about the needs of the people is putting its head in the sand if it totally refuses to consider any alternative method of financing the service."

Doctors must avoid the strait-jacket of a total commitment to the NHS at a time when their services might be increasingly required outside the state system. They were already aware of the attitude towards their commitment to the NHS.

"Our thoughts are turning inevitably to the most extreme, and also the most honourable and ethical, option in our sanctions plan, total resignation. Home births: It would be wrong for the Government to insist that doctors who wanted to have their babies at home should have them in hospital, Mr Ennals said yesterday.

Inspecting maternity services at South Mead Hospital, Bristol, he said: "I have to make it quite clear that if a woman chooses to have a delivery at home, despite the arguments against it, the area health authority should ensure that the services necessary to make home delivery as safe as possible are provided."

"Misleading" Healey figures, page 19

NUI plans sanctions in pay clash

By Christopher Thomas

Eleven sanctions against provincial newspapers are proposed by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) from Monday unless talks over the weekend produce a settlement to a dispute over local pay bargaining.

The sanctions could bring the newspapers into serious difficulties, although they would not stop production. The NUJ's action is in protest at a clause in the employers' new pay award, which would limit the right of journalists to strike.

The newspaper society, representing provincial newspapers in England and Wales, said yesterday: "We have continued negotiations throughout today with the NUJ and there will be a meeting of representatives of the union and the society tomorrow."

The sanctions include a ban on writing advertising features and a ban on working outside normal office hours which would mean journalists refusing to cover evening or early morning events. Nobody should exceed an 80-hour fortnight. Private cars should not be used for business unless specified in a journalist's contract.

Journalists will also be expected to insist on a lunch break of at least an hour to be taken by everybody at the same time. Under the new national agreement, operative from January 1, the NUJ has accepted a Newspaper Society offer of 57.0p a week for fully qualified journalists. The offer was reduced from 57.3p because the Department of Employment said the higher figure would have increased the wages bill by 0.36 per cent over the limit on earnings rises of a tenth.

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Mobil drivers accept offer

Two hundred Mobil tanker drivers accepted a pay offer within the Government's guidelines last night. Other tanker drivers, however, plan to take industrial action.

Thirteen hundred Scottish tanker drivers working for all the major oil companies decided yesterday to join the overtime ban being imposed from Wednesday by BP, Esso and Texaco men in a pay dispute. They may be joined by Shell drivers.

Jury told of a 'Dr Who' and an invisible drug

Mr Justice Park and a jury at Bristol Crown Court were told yesterday about "Dr Who" and an invisible drug that makes people believe they can fly or walk on water. "Dr Who" was bow David Todd, one of the defendants, was described by a chemist's shop assistant who was said to have served him with a jar of calcium lactate, which is used to make filler for LSD microdots.

The court was told that the amount of LSD needed for a microdot, enough for "a trip" was a fifth of the size of a grain of salt and invisible to the naked eye.

Mr Todd, aged 23, of Cumberland Street, Edinburgh, and Martin Annable, aged 29, a teacher, of Radnor Gardens, Twickenham, London, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to supply LSD.

Mr Neville Dunnott, of the Government's laboratories at Aldermaston, said that the most usual way of making LSD was from a chemical found in fungus which grows on rye. The chemical was converted to

Lysergic acid and reacted with another chemical. LSD was then mixed with a filler like French chalk or calcium lactate, bound by starch to make an easily handled tablet.

Mr Dunnott said that when he went to a house in Seymour Road, Hampton Wick, London, he found "an illicit laboratory for synthesising LSD and for converting that LSD into microdots and domes". He said a dome was another form of LSD. The amount of rye fungus he found in the house was enough to make 1,800,000 microdots.

Mrs Christian McBride, who works for R. Gordon Drummond, chemist, of Cathcart Road, Glasgow, said she remembered seeing a man who had come into the shop had reminded her of Dr Who.

The trial continues on Monday.

Garden of missing boy's home dug to end gossip

By Robert Parker

The police yesterday dug up part of the garden at the home in Wensley Road, Reading, of Lester Chapman, aged eight, who disappeared 16 days ago. Nothing was found and Det Inspector Brian Warren said the purpose of the dig was to try to allay malicious gossip against the boy's parents.

The dig, which was carried out by two officers who borrowed a shovel from the Chapmans, took place as Mr Leslie Chapman, aged 26, the boy's stepfather, was complaining about his life being made unbearable by gossip.

Writing in the local newspaper, he said: "Gossips have accused me of killing my stepson, Lester. They say I knocked him about once too often and he died. They say I took his body away and buried it."

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'Freedom' for V & A urged

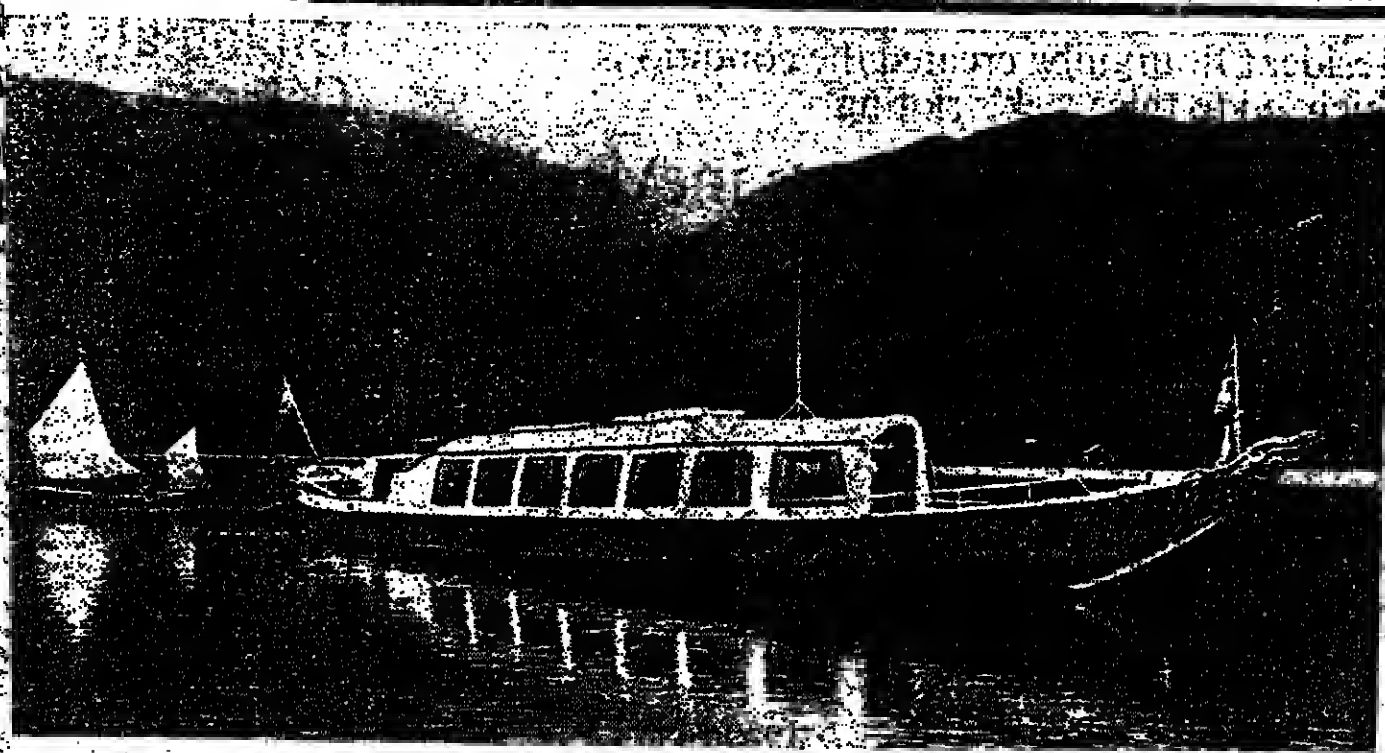
By Our Arts Reporter

The Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries is to recommend in its next report that the Victoria and Albert Museum in London should be given trustee status instead of remaining under the control of the Department of Education and Science.

An official of the commission pointed out, however, that the issue of the museum's status would be only a part of a much bigger picture. There were other non-trustee bodies, such as those running the Science Museum and the Tower of London, with similar difficulties.

HOME NEWS

Stonehenge
creditors
to get
dividend



earlier appeal. Gondola, a Victorian motor launch, was used to drive a sawmill at Ulverston. After being blown on to the southern shore in a storm, she was deliberately sunk to gunwale level. She was saved from the scrap yard by Mr Arthur Hutton, of Grange-over-Sands, a local restaurateur who had hoped to restore her himself. The National Trust took over the project last year, however, and her rusty but still largely watertight riveted iron hull was pumped out before she was brought to a restoration berth at

Councils looking to Mr Shore for return of some lost powers

Christopher Warman, Secretary of the Association of County Councils, said yesterday that many district councils were looking to Mr Shore for the return of some lost powers. He said that the Association of County Councils was not in favour of the 1974 reorganisation of local government, but that it was in favour of the return of some powers to the district councils. He said that the Association of County Councils was not in favour of the 1974 reorganisation of local government, but that it was in favour of the return of some powers to the district councils.

received support from Mr Ronald Haywood, general secretary of the Labour Party, but although the intention remains, formidable obstacles stand in the way of even limited change. First, the county councils have, since 1974, been responsible for the main services, including education and the social services, which they inherited from the former county boroughs in 1974. Among those who wish for change, the biggest district councils were education and the lesser 22 regard that aim as unrealistic. Second, and probably more important, the governmental heads of the relevant services are opposed to any such change. Mr Shore, who has been unable to offer as much as the acquisitive district councils desire. There is clearly no love lost between the two tiers of local government as to their respective values to the community. In a policy document the 22 county councils said: "We all claim to possess a strong feeling of identity, a warm social impulse and a sense of civic pride, qualities which stimulate an emphasis on the standards of local services. The present system has had the damaging effect of placing boroughs and cities under the domination of county administrations, that are both unaware of and insensitive to the demands of the urban areas."

In brief

Footballers had forged dollars

Two Crystal Palace footballers pleaded guilty at Inner London Crown Court yesterday to possessing 250 \$100 United States bills, knowing them to have been forged. They were Barry Silkin, aged 25, of Commercial Street, Stepney, and Rachid Peter Harkouk, aged 21, of Stamford Brook Avenue, Hammersmith, both London. Mr Silkin was fined £750 and Mr Harkouk, £500.

Assault case withdrawn

A summons for assault against Mr Victor Matthews, chief executive of the Trafalgar House group, was withdrawn by the complainant at Tottenham Magistrates' Court yesterday. Mr Matthews, of Owls Hall Farm, Carlegrave Road, Enfield, London, and Alfred Gentry, of the same address, had been summoned by Mr Matthews's former chairman, Mr Philip Geoffrey Banks, alleging assault on December 15 at Owls Hall Farm.

Pickets' court protest

Pickets from the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians surrounded Thames Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday in protest when nine carpenters, arrested for alleged obstruction and making a bonfire at Stepney during the trial, were remanded on bail until March 16 after pleading not guilty.

No Manx visit

The judges of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, who are considering their verdict in the Manx birching issue, have refused to visit the Isle of Man to make an investigation, the Government in Douglas announced yesterday. The verdict is expected in April.

£18,000 payroll snatch

Two men were detained in hospital with serious head injuries yesterday after being clubbed by masked raiders in an £18,000 payroll snatch at a factory at Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester.

Roof-top jail protest

Francis Marriott, who has served 12 years of a life sentence for murder, staged a rooftop protest at Maidstone Prison yesterday over the length of his sentence.

Coaster refloated

The 299-ton German coaster, Elpor, which was driven on the beach at St Ives Bay, Cornwall, by a storm 17 days ago, was refloated yesterday.

24-hour radio service

Radio 1, the independent station covering the south of England, is to start 24-hour broadcasting from March 1.

Villages of England

Public lack of interest in the plight of villages is a symbol of the disregard for the old. In the Sunday Times tomorrow Philip Norman reports on the realities of village life.

Car workers disregarded non-smoking rules

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham
Workers at Leyland Cars' Mini assembly factory at Longbridge, Birmingham, consistently and repeatedly disregarded smoking bans in areas of high fire risk, it was stated at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday. Gordon Bowen, aged 63, of Ackleton Road, Wesley Castle, West Midlands, said that he had been fined £30 for smoking in a high fire risk area. He was fined £40 for smoking in a high fire risk area. He was fined £40 for smoking in a high fire risk area.

BBC fears delay to start of Parliament broadcasts

The BBC expressed fears in a statement yesterday that permanent broadcasts from Parliament might be delayed because of a Commons motion calling for a select committee to control the broadcasting of debates. The motion was passed by a vote of 219 to 199. The BBC said that it was not clear whether the motion would be taken up by the House of Commons.

'False assumptions' of 'think tank' report

By Ian Bradley
The assumptions on which the Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank") based its recent report on the future of the country's power and influence are basically determined by its economic performance. He also questions its supposition that the purpose of diplomatic activity is to "disguise the fact" of the change in Britain's relative economic position. He points out that Senator Robert Kennedy said during his last visit to this country that it was moral pressure rather than Britain's economic or military strength that was the most important factor in enabling Mr Macmillan to persuade President Kennedy to sign the test ban treaty of 1963. Sir Charles says Senator

Pages award to charity

an Bird, a street pover, awarded £175 damages for a chestnut tree which he had cut down. The money was given to charity.

ney Barrett

On January 20 of previous year, a 17-year-old boy was charged with the murder of a 17-year-old girl. The boy was charged with the murder of a 17-year-old girl.

PARLIAMENT, January 27, 1978

Tory government would not make sweeping changes in industrial relations law

House of Commons
The Employment Protection (Amendment) Bill was read a second time by 235 votes to 210 majority, 15.
Mr Ian Maitland (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab), moving the second reading, said the whole burden of the legal system was the protection of property. The system was geared to protecting the interests of capital without looking at the interests of labour. Private legislation had been needed on the other side if only to correct that in-built bias that the non-unionist law had against the worker.
The Employment Protection Act had proved to have some loopholes and flaws. Some of them arose from differing interpretations of the Act.
No trade union was compelled to affiliate to the TUC. What it did it pledged itself to accept the rules and guidance of the TUC. There had been cases recently in which TUC affiliates had disregarded TUC advice and proceeded unilaterally with an Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service claim. That put the TUC in an unnecessarily difficult and embarrassing position. Recently the matter had become more serious. The TUC had threatened to disrupt the Bridlington dispute principle.
The Bill allowed the TUC mechanisms to continue. It allowed the TUC to deal with the union concerned under its own rules which that union accepted. The amendment was not intended to be a radical change. It was intended to be a service which must continue as it had an important part to play in industrial relations. Some of the TUC affiliates had been making the best decisions it could.
In time he said he would probably want to look at the recognition side again and the role of the TUC.
On the whole Bridlington had worked well. No one would argue that if unions could agree peacefully and satisfactorily among themselves on how they should conduct their business, that should be encouraged. What should not happen is that things should be written into a statute as in the case of recognition. In the Employment Protection Act, and then have unions say they wanted to do it their way. They could not contract out of it. It was not the intention of the House or of industrial relations that a specific change in the law of recognition should be made in this way.
The Conservatives' approach had been wholly responsible. They did not want certain parts of the law on the employers' side to be amended. Some parts of the Employment Protection Act were positively damaging. The Conservatives believed that the Government should not wish for another great upheaval in industrial relations law. On recognition, the Conservatives would not make sweeping changes in the law. They would want to consider certain limited amendments which they believed

to be essential. Before doing so they would wish to review the law carefully and they would consult all parties.
They believed that the hallmark of successful industrial relations policy was even-handedness achieved through full consultation. Conciliation would not work in the modern day and age. That applied just as much to conciliation of management as it did to conciliation of trade unions and it was not compatible with the assurance that characterized their front of demagogues.
We need (he said) to construct an environment in which management, unions, and all workers are seeking to improve their own industrial relations to the advantage of themselves, their company and the country.
If the value to enjoy good industrial relations in a free society the workers they must employ and the management must employ, industry and unions had to be education, persuasion, debate and trust.
Above all else Government and the unions must avoid any resort to the law simply to promote or protect particular narrow interests. The function of the law was not to uphold and guarantee the basic rights and freedoms that applied throughout society.
For understandable reasons the unions had been reluctant to see the law set involved in industrial relations. Their experience with the courts had not always been happy. Now there was a new doctrine. On the one hand the unions still had a real fear of the involvement of the law and on the other they came to appreciate the value of the law in extending their immunities and increasing their privileges. The Bill was motivated by those such as Lord Justice Scarman, who were strongly over the law. They were now witnessing a new process of democracy and industrial relations consequences if it continued in its present form.
The process remained unbalanced. While there was now a determined effort by the unions to use the law to gain a privileged position there remained a resistance on the part of the unions to accept the responsibilities and obligations that might be placed upon them in return. The spirit of the law operated two ways. He felt this strongly over the Grunwick dispute. He felt that Mr Ward was greatly mistaken not to accept Lord Justice Scarman's advice, but at the same time he (Mr Prior) had said to union leaders that if they wanted the spirit of the law to operate in this case as Lord Justice Scarman had recommended they had to be certain they operated the spirit of the law in other respects.
The power of extremists, whether they be on the union side or in the eyes of the union, on the employers' side was very much resented by the public and caused great bitterness. If they were to have a proper union movement the unions must carry public support with them. He feared that in some respects they were beginning to lose public support.
The time had come when it was time for the immunities and privileges unions sought under the law they must accept certain obligations and responsibilities. This must be seen to be happening.
He was constantly being asked by Labour MPs to give his views on Grunwick. Mr Ward and other cases. If they were ever to get industrial relations conducted on a proper basis they had to accept that there was a need for even-handedness and for Labour MPs to stand up and be counted, at times against certain activities of trade unions.
Until they got that state of affairs they would not make much progress.
They had had a number of battles within the Conservative Party on this. Naturally they would go on having a number of discordant voices on the subject of the closed shop. Was anyone talking him that there were no disciplinary voices within the union or within society as a whole about the closed shop?
The Conservatives were far more representative of the views of the outside on the closed shop than the Labour Party who seemed to keep it as a union or within society without any argument.
The Conservative Party were not trying to take sides. They realized the desperate state of industrial relations. They recognized that in the past few years the success and prosperity of this country had been managed to achieve.
They did not just blame the unions for it. They recognized the part government and management had had to play as well. If the House was to introduce industrial relations law and amendments to it, they must be even-handed changes to the law.
It would be a prejudiced observer of the industrial relations scene who did not recognize that the Conservative Party at the moment was much more in tune with the true feelings of industrial democracy and industrial relations than they had heard yet from the Labour Party.
Mr Harold Walker, Minister of State for Employment (Doncaster, Lab), said the Government extended a warm welcome to the Bill.
With such a wide ranging and complex issue as industrial relations, much new ground as the Employment Protection Act had no one could suppose they would get it flawless from the outset. There were holes that needed plugging quickly and the Bill sought to deal with one of them.
There was a problem about the law on unfair dismissal in recognition disputes. The Grunwick dispute had shown clearly that an employer could exploit the fact that the law at present afforded to claims for unfair dismissal in these circumstances. In order to get rid of a group of workers who were pressing for recognition.
The Bill gave a useful opportunity to reconsider the law on this point.
There was much in Mr Prior's speech with which he agreed. He welcomed Mr Prior's declaration of support for the Bill. The Opposition spokesman could not claim that his party were united on this.
The second reading, the Consumer Safety Bill was read a second time and the House adjourned at 4.44pm.

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BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

WEST EUROPE

M Giscard tells the French that a government of the left would lead to economic chaos

From Charles Hargrove

Verdun-sur-le-Doubs, Jan 27. President Giscard d'Estaing tonight clearly warned the French that the common programme and a government of the left would lead the country to economic chaos.

"But Frechmann's choice must not only be negative," he said. "A people will through if it knows where it wants to go. That is why I propose in France to advance further towards justice in unity and freedom."

The President was speaking before about ten thousand people gathered inside and round a large circus tent on the edge of this small rural town. He emphasized that the "good choice" he proposed was dictated by a "good sense" based on the following conditions: Economic recovery must be completed; France must be governed efficiently; it must progress towards unity and justice; and its international role must be insured.

Drawing frequent cheers from the audience, he said that the country was at present beset at the crossroads, the other road led to recovery, the other to the common programme of the left.

"Do not believe those who promise too much. You do not in private life. Why should you do so in public life? Frenchmen will not live happily in a paradise of false ideas."

They were tempted to vote against economic crisis. But they could not vote against a crisis any more than against illness. "If one wants to cure it, one must choose one's physician well."

The Government had pointed the road by its "courageous and persistent action of economic recovery, which is beginning to bear fruit". He paid an emphatic tribute to the "courage, perseverance, and loyalty" of Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister.

The other road was the application of the common programme of the left. This meant the enforcement of a "collectivism which will plunge the country in economic disorder, not just the rich and the privileged, but the young, the old, and the workers too. You can choose the common programme. The choice is yours alone. But if you do, it will be applied."

He warned his audience against the comfortable thought that if he remained President, he could thwart its application.

Earlier in his speech, M Giscard d'Estaing had defended his right to point to the "right choice" for France. "Some would deny it to me. What a curious Republic ours would be which was presided over by a mute President."

The President is not a party leader or a partisan. But he cannot remain indifferent to the fate of France. And my duty is to warn against anything that would make difficulties for the future of France."

No one party could hope to govern France alone. It could be governed only by an alliance. The alliance of the majority, despite regrettable strains, had inspired stability and progress. But for the majority to win, its members must support each other loyally, not fight one another. The other alliance pro-

posed was that of the common programme of the left. But this raised two questions, and these the voters must put to the candidates in the coming election.

These were: will the Communists take part in a government of the left and will the common programme of the left be applied or not.

"The choice of the alliance that will govern cannot be postponed until after the election. You deserve a clear reply to this before the election which will decide your political future."

There was some speculation as to why President Giscard d'Estaing had chosen this small township of 1,300 inhabitants, a cattle breeding centre, at the confluence of the Saône and the Doubs.

Verdun may have been singled out as a typical example of the "deep France" which had suffered cruelly from the divisions of Frenchmen in history. It was thus an obvious township from which to speak in the name of unity to the national virtues of earthy realism and common sense."

He did so with his usual skill, on the whole, adopting a lofty and dignified approach to the fundamental issues confronting the voters. That he will not have succeeded in satisfying the Opposition is not surprising. He could not have done so without abandoning the powers or prerogatives of the President of the Fifth Republic.

Earlier today, the President pursued his pilgrimage through the rolling Burgundy countryside. But he did not venture into enemy territory at any point.

Socialist nucleus still in Soares new Cabinet

From Jose Shiercliff

Lisbon, Jan 27. The new Portuguese Government of Dr Mario Soares, to be sworn in on Monday, is basically Socialist but with two independents and three members of the conservative Centre Democratic Party (CDS).

Several members of Dr Soares's first constitutional government are in the new Cabinet. Colonel Fimiao Miguel (Independent) remains as Defence Minister. But Dr Almeida Santos has moved from Justice to the new post of Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Sousa Gomes, the former able Minister of Economic Co-ordination, now takes on public works and housing. His position as economic coordinator is filled by Dr Vitor Constancao, the level-headed and competent Governor of the Bank of Portugal, and Vice-President of the committee for negotiating with the European Economic Community. Dr Coostancio, in his 30s, has already held important posts in previous post-revolutionary governments.

A surprise element in the Cabinet is a lawyer, Dr Luis Salas, the new Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. He is described by the Prime Minister as a "standing fighter against fascism for his work in the law courts defending political prisoners under the last regime. He has for some years been connected with the fishing industry."

His portfolio is particularly sensitive in view of the ticklish problem of land reform which is a bone of contention between the right and the left wings. Dr Salas is an independent.

Dr Soares takes to a founder-member of the Centre Democratic Party, Dr Vitor Sá Machado, who has held important posts in the Gulbenkian Foundation here. This is his first Cabinet post.

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The new Cabinet is:

Prime Minister: Mario Soares. Defence: Colonel Fimiao Miguel. Assistant Minister: Antonio Almeida Santos. Planning: Vitor Constancao. Agriculture: Luis Salas. Finance: José Santos Pires. Foreign Affairs: Vitor Sá Machado. Justice: Almeida Santos. Education: Luís Sá. Health: António Sousa Torres.

At an impromptu press conference, Mr Karamanlis claimed that it was now certain that "negotiations on all points could be completed by the end of the month."

But Mr Burton has speedily rejected any cancellation of his committee's two-day hearing scheduled for the end of this month, which has been long and at times acrimonious.

In his letter, Mr Bond accused British interests of conducting "a vicious lobbying campaign in the media and elsewhere to call into question the technical competence of the American-built advanced all-weather landing system known as TRSB (time reference scanning beam)."

Holding a Congressional hearing to explore what he calls "these serious allegations" would be maintained.

Mr Bond was also "seriously troubled" by the timing of the hearings, which will take place a few weeks before the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meeting in London to adopt the TRSB or its British rival, the so-called Doppler system.

He said he believed that other countries would see the superiority of the American system, "as did ICAO's all-weather operations panel". (This body of experts came out overwhelmingly in favour of TRSB, although the British say that the decision was based on misleading information.)

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OVERSEAS

President Bourguiba created the conditions which led to this week's rioting
Tunisian violence was inevitable

By Derry Hogue

President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, now aged 74, must be watching the present political unrest with memories of his own politically passionate life, reflecting that he has largely created the conditions which made this week's violent outbursts inevitable.

Although for the past seven years, President Bourguiba has faded to being mostly a token head of state, his influence on his country has been summed up by himself. When interviewed by *Le Monde* recently about the nature of the Tunisian political system, he replied: "The system? I am the system."

While that is certainly no longer true, and the real power is now exercised by Mr. Bedi, his Prime Minister, it was President Bourguiba who totally dominated the struggles for independence from France and the development of a generally poorly-endowed country since gaining that independence in March 1956.

That development, accompanied by some examples of quite severe political repression, and contrary attempt to embrace a wide spectrum of political views within his administration, has created a relatively well-educated and better fed young population than in most Third World countries.

The present wave of violence, led by an articulate student population seeking greater political freedom and a trade union movement fearing a bleak economic future, most remind him of his own efforts towards national self-determination which began in the 1930s.

Mr Bourguiba, a lawyer recently returned from being educated in Paris (there was no higher education in French Tunisia at that time) emerged as the main figure behind moves calling for home rule. His campaigning led him to be invited, with his supporters, to the Destour Party in 1937.

He was imprisoned for his role in the 1937-38 strike, and was expelled from Tunisia at that time. He returned to Tunisia in 1939, and was again imprisoned for his role in the 1939-40 strike, and was expelled from Tunisia at that time.

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President Bourguiba: A politically passionate life.

Party, which was to become the sole nationalist force.

His growing political stature led him to be incarcerated several times by the French and each time this led to massive street demonstrations and resultant violence which would seem to have had even more intensity than this week's troubles.

He was imprisoned in France during the war but released by the Germans in an attempt to use his prestige to bring Tunisia to the side of the Axis powers. However, on his return to Tunisia in the spring of 1943 he immediately came under the influence of the American consulate in Tunis and its head, Mr. Honker Dole.

But the cycle of the 1930s began to repeat itself when the French regained control after the war and Mr Bourguiba once again found himself imprisoned and expelled.

It was evident to the French, however, that they had made a martyr of him and there was a bleak period of violent repression by the French forces.

In 1955, home rule was finally granted and Mr Bourguiba was set free, two days before the official signing. He immediately took control of

regions of the territory, is demanding the total withdrawal of South African troops before it will take part in elections.

South Africa has made a number of concessions, including an offer of a substantial reduction in the number of troops it will retain in the territory until independence, but these have not been matched by any reciprocal moves on the Swapo side.

However, according to reports from Windhoek, the capital, the external wing of Swapo is being urged by leaders of the internally-based wing to adopt a more accommodating stance in the talks with the Western powers.

To particular the internally-based wing has been urged to accept a reduction of the war could sow disillusionment among Swapo supporters in the heavily populated northern regions where most of the fighting is taking place.

The more "moderate" line now being followed by the internal wing has been adopted after a series of discussions between the organization and representatives of five church groups in the territory.

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Diplomats in Cairo doubt peace forecasts

From David Watts

Cairo, Jan 27

Western diplomats, not directly involved in the search for compromise formulas on the future of the Palestinians and Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, do not share the optimism over the chances for an overall peace settlement being voiced by some American and Israeli officials.

They feel that the present exercise is taking on the appearance of a dry, legalistic process. This, they say, might result in a set of principles which would satisfy no one. The political committee discussions are aimed at deciding a set of principles through which the two countries can find peace.

Though not denigrating the efforts of the Americans, the diplomats feel that expectations have been raised too high and results have been expected over too short a time scale to allow adequate preparation for a lasting, comprehensive settlement.

"Given the history of the last 30 years in the Middle East it is expecting too much. These things take time," said one diplomat. But time, as President Sadat knows only too well, is not on his side.

Moreover, Arab diplomatic sources indicate that there is not likely to be any decisive action in the Middle East. They are most likely to continue their present policy of waiting "until the wheel stops spinning", and then take things from there.

This weekend the diplomatic focus switches to Amman where Mr Alfred Atherton, the American Assistant Secretary of State, is meeting King Hussein. Some diplomats in Cairo believe that the king may be tempted to join in the peace talks by the compromise formula on the future of the Palestinians which Mr Atherton has been working on in Israel this week.

In that case there could be a significant shift of previously wavering Arab states to the Sadat camp, which would give the Egyptian leader the support he needs so much at present.

Mr Atherton is later due to brief American ambassadors accredited to the Middle East, including Mr Samuel Lewis, Ambassador to Israel, and Mr Hermann Eilts, the envoy to Egypt. Mr Atherton is expected in Egypt early next week to discuss the peace talks with him and three other congressmen in Damascus.

Washington, Jan 27.—Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has promised to drop all territorial demands on Israel if a Palestinian state were set up on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip.

Mr Arafat said that he would be willing to accept a "partial" settlement, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, if Israel agreed to drop all territorial demands on Israel if a Palestinian state were set up on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip.

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Mitterrand olive branch to Communists

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 27

The President of the republic cannot be at the same time the referee on the field and the captain of one of the teams, M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, said on television last night. Referring to tonight's much publicized speech by President Giscard d'Estaing in Burgundy in which he told the electorate "the good choice" for the election, M. Mitterrand deplored what he saw as the use of the position as head of state for party political ends.

"How can the President of the republic indicate the good choice to the French?" M

Mitterrand asked. "He can only draw up a balance of the past five years, what it has done and not done. The French are not at the mercy of a speech. Words do not replace deeds."

M. Mitterrand also said that there was a distinct change of tone in his party's dealings with the Communist Party. If the Socialists received seven million votes after the first round, it would then be positioned to conduct a mathematical majority in the second round.

"If the left is in overall majority after the first round, thanks to the Socialist Party, I

cannot believe that the managers of the Communist Party would refuse to give the help needed for victory." Once they had won, they could start a discussion on the common programme to govern together. It was the Socialist position that if the left won there would be a government of all the parties of the left.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, said last night at Chateaufort, that he was prepared to rejoin the discussion with the Socialists. "At any hour of the day or night" provided they would respect the provisions of the common programme worked out in 1972.

E Berlin court jails woman 'spy from West'

From Our Correspondent

Berlin, Jan 27

Frau Regate Jahn, a West German citizen, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by an East Berlin military court yesterday after having been found guilty of espionage on behalf of the West German intelligence service.

In reporting the verdict and sentence today, the East German newsagency said that the intelligence service used West Germans for military espionage and "other crimes" against East Germany. These people were made to infringe agreements on transit traffic and to mislead visiting permits, it claimed.

Spain increases airport security

Barcelona, Jan 27.—Security has been tightened at all Spanish airports because of terrorist threats here last week against the Spanish airline, Iberia, the Cifra news agency reported today.

Baggage is being checked on the tarmac before loading and the Barcelona airport post office is accepting almost no mail. There were no details on the threats or the terrorist identity.—Agence France-Presse.

Korchnoi shares chess lead

Wijk-aan-Zee, Holland, Jan 27.—Viktor Korchnoi, Anatoly Karpov's challenger for the world chess championship, and Lajos Portisch, of Hungary, are sharing the lead in the Hongovens tournament after winning their sixth round games.

Reggio de Calabria, Jan 27.—Francesco Fallente, aged 23, the son of a rich Italian landowner, was released here last night by kidnappers after his family paid the final £137,000 instalment of a large ransom.

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chain of people clings to a bus stop in central Toronto, which was cordoned off by police as winds of more than 60 mph blowing through southern Ontario scattered roof debris and shattered office windows.

Americans battered by blizzards

in Michael Leapman
New York, Jan 27

More than 40 people are believed to have died as a result of the extreme weather affecting large areas of the United States during the last 48 hours. In the Midwest, people were caught in a deadly struggle to safety after being hit by winds of more than 60 mph.

The states worst affected were in the Midwest. Nine deaths were reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Missouri. In Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, there were reports of damage to property and crops.

To the east there were floods when heavy rain mixed with melting snow in unseasonably high temperatures. Hundreds of thousands of people had no electricity as power lines were brought down by high winds or snow and ice.

Police in Ohio say they rescued nearly 6,000 motorists from cars stranded on snow-covered roads. Another 2,000, they estimated, remained in their cars awaiting help.

In Ohio, as in some other states, National Guard reservists were called up to help cope with the emergency. In Rhode Island, the Governor, called "a killer blizzard looking for victims". Snowdrifts several feet high were reported.

A state trooper in Illinois described the roads as "like junkyard" littered as they were with abandoned cars and lorries. Motorists sought refuge in fire stations and other emergency centres. In Chicago, police buckled their belts together to make a lifeline in rescue of a man and woman stranded on a piece of ice drifting in Lake Michigan.

A train taking 60 people to the Florida sunshine became stuck in a snow bank in Indiana and froze to the rails. The heating failed and it was more than 12 hours before the passengers, some frostbitten in spite of being swathed in blankets, were freed.

In West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, thousands had to leave their homes as rivers rose to flood level. There was flooding, too, in the north-eastern part of the country as torrential rain fell in temperatures that rose to nearly 60°F.

The last two days have seen the latest and most violent of a succession of storms that have been blowing through the country and parts of Canada since the beginning of the year. In the Midwest, people just begin to get straightened out after the last storm when, after a gap of about three days, another and fiercer one arrives.

With another approaching storm reported today off California (also suffering from floods), there is no early relief in prospect.

New York has been let off quite lightly this time. Residents of outer sections of the city had been complaining about what they thought was a dilatory approach on the part of Mr. Edward Koch, the new mayor, to clearing streets after last night's unexpected 12 in snow fall. However, the rain and high temperatures have now melted most of the snow and the complaints, too.

Now the trouble is potholes. Ice and rock salt cause large cracks and holes in the roads, and city crews have been mobilized to carry out emergency repairs.

Compulsory prayer urged for Pakistan's civil servants

in Hassan Akhtar
Islamabad, Jan 27

Pakistan's martial law administration is being urged to make compulsory for public servants in all offices.

The Council of Islamic Ideology, which is charged with integrating Islamic law with the laws of Pakistan, has recommended to General Zia ul-Haq, chief martial administrator, department heads be made to organize prayers in their premises.

Prayers are directed by the Council to offer prayers five times a day. The Council, which is a religious body, will serve to enforce the Islamic law in all public offices.

General Zia, a practising Muslim, has been zealous in introducing certain Islamic practices, but this has so far been limited in scope.

General Zia's emphasis on the adoption of Islamic ways apparently has been irksome for the many bureaucrats who have been educated and brought up on a Western pattern. General Zia has strictly forbidden the wearing of abandoned cars and lorries. Motorists sought refuge in fire stations and other emergency centres.

Among some of the laws that may be changed to conform with Islamic dictates are some originally framed by the British in India more than a century ago. The present provision of the death penalty for wilful murder could be amended so that the accused would have to pay cash compensation to the victim's heirs instead of being hanged.

Four more to be charged in Korean bribes case

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 27

A further four former members of Congress are expected to be formally charged with offences committed during South Korea's alleged campaign to buy friends and influence people on Capitol Hill.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Benjamin Civiletti, an Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department, to a group of Democrats from the House of Representatives.

Although Mr. Civiletti has declined to comment publicly on what he told the meeting, participants have passed on to reporters the gist of his remarks.

According to Mr. Leon Panetta, California Representative, Mr. Civiletti also said he had collected evidence on a further 15 to 20 former and present congressmen which will be handed over to Congress for use in possible disciplinary actions.

In addition, Mr. Civiletti is quoted as saying that the Justice Department is investigating whether Mr. John Mitchell, President Nixon's Attorney General, and his former colleagues who might have known about the so-called Koreagate scandal, did enough to investigate and stop it.

Mr. Civiletti has recently returned from Seoul, where he questioned Mr. Tooguns Park, a South Korean official, about the alleged bribes. Mr. Park is reported to have told Justice Department investigators that he passed out \$1m in cash to members of Congress between 1968 and 1975.

Polish Minister of Culture changes duties

Warsaw, Jan 27.—Mr. Józef Tejchma, the Polish Minister of Culture, resigned yesterday, handing the portfolio since 1974.

He remains a Deputy Prime Minister, but will have new responsibilities in supervising agriculture and food production, the youth and women's movements, and religious affairs. These were expected to place him above the ministers holding those portfolios.

Last year, there were signs of a backstage battle over cultural policy, with Mr. Tejchma generally regarded as a liberal. A controversial film about the Stalinist period by Andrzej Wajda, the film director, was widely criticised in the press and by hard-line party officials.

There has also been argument about censorship, as well as an incident in which large quantities of censored documents were smuggled to the West and published there.—Reuters.

MP aids Romanian activist hoping to stay in Britain

By Penny Symon

Sir George Sinclair, Conservative MP for South Devon, has taken the case of Mr. Nicolae Dascalu, a Romanian human rights activist who alleges that he was threatened and beaten by Romanian security police and is now seeking permission to settle in Britain.

Mr. Dascalu, aged 33, a teacher, has been granted temporary admission by the Home Office, and is staying with one of Sir George's constituents.

He wishes to remain in Britain, but has been told that he must leave the country if he has come from Romania. Mr. Dascalu has been in the country since 1974.

Sir George said that he had taken up the case because he felt that it was right for Mr. Dascalu to remain in Britain. "I have explained to the Home Office that if he is sent to Austria, which would be the case if he is not allowed to stay, he will be in danger if he returns to Romania."

Less see Vietnam-Cambodia front

Jean Thoreval
Minsk City, Jan 27

Five foreign journalists, in an American television broadcast, said for themselves that Vietnamese and Cambodians were still firing their border.

Chau Doc in An-Giang province was still being fought over by the two sides. A group of about 100 Vietnamese soldiers were still in the area, and a Cambodian force of about 100 soldiers was still in the area.

In this region, at Ba Ha, Cambodian troops had an offensive from Jan 1 to 19. Vietnamese said five Cambodians were killed and 5,000 soldiers taken. The Cambodians held the village, about 10 miles from the border, and were still fighting.

Colonel Bui Thanh, commander in this sector, said the Cambodians had 1,060 dead and 3,000 wounded.

At Ba Den and its surrounding hamlets, a total of 120 houses were destroyed and barns burnt. Lying around were a few earthenware pots among thousands of broken pieces and the twisted remains of corrugated iron roofs, melted by fire or tipped off by shells.

Fighting has been reported along nearly 430 miles of the 630-mile border. A Vietnamese official admitted that the Vietnamese Army had gone through some difficult moments in the Ha Tien region.

From all round Ba Den the population, some of whom are of Khmer or Chinese origin, have fled leaving to the drought 8,600 acres of paddy which is virtually no-man's-land.

The Vietnamese Army is in strength along the dusty tracks through what were once rice fields. Groups of 50 to 100 Vietnamese barefoot soldiers, some carrying rucksacks and AK47 rifles. Others, with loaded guns and grenades on their belts, guard the entrance to villages. Tanks are in readiness concealed in the bushes.

A half-hour flight from there at Can Tho Airbase, American-made fighter bomber aircraft were seen on a red ground were taking off with rockets under their wings.

I saw a dozen pass through the base during the press groups brief stop-over.—Agence France-Presse.

Bangkok, Jan 27.—Cambodia today reported fresh Vietnamese actions in border territory. Phnom Penh radio said that Vietnamese troops had crossed into Cambodian territory on Tuesday in the northern province of Ratanak Kiri. They were reported to be attacking the town of Preaek Klong and the next day, leaving about 50 dead.

In the so-called Parrot Peak, the Cambodian salient much of which is occupied by Vietnamese troops, the radio reported minor clashes last week in which three Cambodian soldiers were killed and five wounded.—Reuters.

Peking region commander faces criticism

Peking, Jan 27.—General Chen Hsi-chen, a Politburo member, was attacked by name on a wallposter during the past few days in the city of Shenyang, Liaoning province.

A group of foreign visitors travelling in the province read a big-character poster accusing the general, who is the commander of the Peking military region, of being an "agent of the bourgeoisie" and a "traitor to the revolution."

The poster, put up in a city centre, was signed by a group of railway workers, according to reliable sources here.—Agence France-Presse.

Woman fails in grading scheme appeal

Law Report January 27 1978

National Vulcan Engineering Insurance Group Ltd v Wade. Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ormrod and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane.

A woman doing the same work as a man in a lower grade, and accordingly paid less, was not entitled to equal pay where the system of grading employees according to skill, ability and experience had been applied by the employers irrespective of sex.

Employers seeking to rely on section 1(3) of the Equal Pay Act 1975, which provides that the system shall not operate in relation to variation between the woman's contract and the man's contract if the employer proves that the variation is due to a material difference (other than the difference of sex) between her and him, failed in their appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Phillips, The Times, February 18, 1977) of their appeal against an award of equal pay by the Industrial Tribunal at Manchester.

The appeal was allowed by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Mr Wade, a male colleague who was on a higher grade, 72, and getting more pay, said that she ought to be paid the same.

The employers relied on section 1(3), claiming that there was a material difference in the skill, capacity and experience of the two women, which had nothing to do with sex, and produced evidence to that effect.

During the hearing it appeared that Mrs Wade had improved her work and had been promoted in April, 1976, so that her loss, if any, was quite small.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal found that the grading was a personal assessment based on a misconception as to the burden of proof on employers. The court had been referred to judgments of the Employment Appeal Tribunal which had used many phrases very near to those used in relation to the criminal burden of proof.

The burden of proof on employers was not a heavy burden. It was the ordinary burden of proof on the balance of probability.

Queen's Bench Division Site chosen for gypsies without consultation

Regina v Sheffield City Council, ex parte Widdows. Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice O'Connor and Mr Justice Lloyd.

[Judgment delivered January 26]

Sheffield City Council was not entitled to choose a site for gypsies without consulting the gypsies, thereby ignoring a fundamental requirement of the section. In other words, was consultation material for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the gypsies and other relevant matters.

The Divisional Court refused an application by Mr Arthur Raymond Widdows, a gypsy, for an order of certiorari to quash a planning permission granted by the council for the development of a site for use by itinerant caravan dwellers.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1971, provides by section 29(1) that where an application is made for a planning permission for a development of a site for use by itinerant caravan dwellers, the council, in dealing with the application, shall regard to the provisions of the Act, and to any other material considerations.

Mr Raymond Widdows, QC, and Mr Christopher Widdows, QC, and Mr Patrick Hamlin for the council.

The Lord Chief Justice said that the council was not entitled to choose a site for gypsies without consulting the gypsies, thereby ignoring a fundamental requirement of the section. In other words, was consultation material for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the gypsies and other relevant matters.

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Queen's Bench Division Electoral equality in boundary reorganization

Enfield London Borough Council v Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice O'Connor and Mr Justice Lloyd.

[Judgment delivered January 25]

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England failed to comply with the provisions of section 32(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, which required the commission to have regard to the principle of electoral equality between voters.

The commission's proposals for the reorganization of the borough of Enfield, which would have resulted in a borough of 66 councillors, was found to be in breach of the principle of electoral equality between voters.

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Privy Council Right of aborigines to mining royalties

Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement Corporation v Peckinham and Others. Lord Salmon, Lord Wilberforce, Lord Keith of Avonholm, Lord Scarman and Lord Goff.

[Judgment delivered January 25]

The aborigines resident on a reserve in Queensland have a right to a share in the profits from mining on the reserve in preference to the state.

The Privy Council, in a unanimous decision, held that the aborigines resident on a reserve in Queensland have a right to a share in the profits from mining on the reserve in preference to the state.

Second application for equal pay barred

McLoughlin v Gardoms (Stockport) Ltd. A woman stock controller whose equal pay claim was dismissed by an industrial tribunal was prevented from bringing a second application before another industrial tribunal on the ground that the doctrine of res judicata applied. The Employment Appeal Tribunal rejected her submission that res judicata could not apply to equal pay cases.

The Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by Mrs. McLoughlin from a decision of a Manchester industrial tribunal that she had no jurisdiction to hear her claim for equal pay from her employers, Gardoms (Stockport) Ltd., trading as Gordon Ford of Wigan.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN, sitting with Mr J. D. Hughes and Mr J. A. Scoullier, said that after the first industrial tribunal had dismissed her claim, Mrs. McLoughlin had no right to bring a second application before another industrial tribunal.

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Saturday Review

Life with father

by Bruce Arnold

son," my father said. "Put that. You unpack. Put your things in there. That table is for you. But keep everything shipshape."

I was hungry. It was lunch-time, and school breakfast had been early and hurried. But I did not want to be late. I unpacked carefully, putting my meagre school clothes away, arranging my books and notes, paper and pencils the way my father did. I took from my case the carefully packed model I had made for Alice, for Christmas, and checked that nothing had broken. I was absorbed in what I did. When eventually I looked over to the bed in the alcove, I saw that he had fallen into a deep sleep. So, I thought, Home.

I explored the "kitchen", a curtained alcove with gasfings, a rack for crockery, saucepans, a frying pan. There was a loaf and butter and cheese, tea, milk, sugar lumps. Borel in a pot, and some apples.

Cautiously, I began to prepare myself some food. I heated the gas. Put water on to heat. Spread butter on the bread. Sliced cheese. Each action had

a certain pleasure for me, it demonstrated my liberty, my right to choose and decide for myself. It was so different from school. It was home.

Afterwards, I wandered round the room, touching, inspecting, checking that "home" was all that it had been last time. The bed-head was the same. The photographs, in their Boots frames, the same: myself, as a child, with Melanie, being bathed by my mother as a baby, playing on the sand at Bognor, standing beside a large pig on the school farm, both of a half-term visit. My father had made, and above the fireplace, a photograph of my mother, in profile, Eton crop, handsome features, a stylish study, flustering in the firm lines of nose and chin. Oh, you were a handsome woman, I thought, before time wore you down and death took you!

I was checked as I looked up at the photograph, but by the thought of her, but by the realization that I could not recall her as a person at all. Though I had been six years old when she had died, and

therefore, one might imagine, capable of storing up some memory of her flesh and spirit, I could not, then, or at any time later: in my life, recall her as a person real to me. Always, I knew her through my father and through my brother. Always, she was remembered for me, but not by me. My heart was blank about her. The knowledge of her which I had, was knowledge without feeling.

Perhaps it was the same, even when she was alive. Perhaps even then, since I adored my father and was his favourite child, even in early childhood I responded to my mother only indirectly, through him most of all, but through Francis and Melanie as well.

This possibility—for it is only this that I cannot recapture or recall that time—of frightening to me, even now. It represents a cutting of my mother out of my life, not just from the time of her death, early enough though that was, but from before that even itself. Looking at her photograph, father's life, spread before me

has had precisely the same effect upon me: I never really knew her at all.

My father's things were laid out on a desk between the windows. I ran my hands across the smooth, worn, faded green morocco writing case. I did not really dare to touch it. I had never opened it. I could remember it as far back as I could remember anything. I knew some of the things that were inside: identity card, ration book (my own emergency coupons would go in there, too), post office savings books, my father's and my own. More, vaguely, I was aware of certain letters of "significance"—I did not know their significance—were kept there, sometimes the odd bit of money, some old naval documents, "things". Looking down upon the smooth grain of the leather, at the half-pint milk bottle in which two pencils and a pair of scissors stood, at the sheet of blotting paper, at the bottle of Stephens blue-black ink, I began to relax. This was my father's life, spread before me

on a table, summarized, checked out in "things". This was our world. Nothing much existed outside it, so long as the inside remained unchanged. I felt no real curiosity to inspect further, to know all the details contained before me in papers and letters. I did not need to feel curiosity about my father. I knew him, and I believed that my knowledge, built on emotion, was absolute. If I did not question the foundation, why should I doubt the detail?

I moved away from the table. My father stirred and snuffled in his sleep. I sat down on the hearthrug in the warmth of the gasfire and looked into it, listening to the faint hiss of the jets. Safe, in fact, separate from my other world, with my things gathered now with those of my father, I was home at last.

©Bruce Arnold, 1978

This extract is taken from *A Singer at the Wedding*, by Bruce Arnold, which is being published by Hamish Hamilton on Monday at £4.95.

Illustration by Janet Woolley



a drink established Philpotts in his mind as a potential ally. "That sounds a good idea," he said. "A good idea. Yes. What do you say to that?"

I nodded. It was a means of escape from our present onlookers. I could not trust myself to speak. But I had stopped the flow of tears. Anything was better than this vast and public auditorium, where all eyes must be on us as we stood there, all ears acutely tuned to my father's deliberate, slow, carefully accented phrases. People like Eagle would remember it all next term. They would relive it for me, torment me with it. What had I done to deserve this?

My father lifted his case. It was no weight to him. Philpotts walked slightly ahead of me, on one side, I was on the other. I did not want to, but I took my father's arm, more to steady this deliberate yet uncertain steps than for any affection. I felt at that moment.

We went into the high, echoing, staid buffet. In spite of the flood of people outside, it was only half full. I sat down with my father. Philpotts went off to the bar. One or two groups looked over at us with idle curiosity but I stared back with an expression of cold indifference on my face, and indulged their vague questions about the three of us. I looked over at my father, watched him as he fumbled through his pockets, found cigarettes, then a box of matches, and, after three unsuccessful attempts, lit a cigarette and drew deeply upon it.

A conflict of emotions burned within me. This was my holiday, I thought greedily, my Christmas. It was such a brief affair. Each day had to be weighed and measured. There was no room for catastrophe and the attendant waste. I wanted to love this man. I did love him. Yet I was tormented by passionate anger. How did he dare to so shame me? What would the boys think? What would they say next term? What did Philpotts think? Buying liquor for a drunk man in a summer buffet on his first day home from school? I could not bear to look at my father, except covertly, swift, sidelong glances at the blue-grey pall of smoke that hung about him, the wisps that curled around those broad, relaxed fingers, the twin plumes of unhaled smoke that came from his nostrils and went up in a thin veil before those unseeing eyes.

It was Philpotts who broke the reverie. "There you are, sir," he said. "A brandy. And there's a glass of cider for you." He put the drinks down on the marble-topped table. Then he drew up a chair and took a sip of his own beer. He looked at me, his face quite calm. Then he raised his glass. Chin up. It'll be all right. Happy Days.

"I am all right," I said. I lifted the cider and sipped from it. In a way I was all right. I was absorbing the shock of the encounter, suppressing the feelings of shame and betrayal. I was getting ready to go on.

My father roused himself suddenly. He raised the hand with the cigarette in it, inspected the end of it, flicked ash deliberately away from him and looked at us. It was as if he was coming back from a great distance, up from the depths of thought. His eyes were no longer glazed and unseeing. Scales of confusion seemed to have fallen away. He was still deliberate and slow. He looked first at me, and made a half-gesture towards me with his hand, wanting it seemed to reach out and ask for a measure of forgiveness. But the movement ended with his hand resting on the table close to the untouched glass of brandy. Then he looked at Philpotts. "Philpotts," he said. "Then again, Philpotts, you are a singer, no? And head of his house?" The strain of remembering seemed, for a moment, too much. He looked on round the buffet, at the bar, at the other people, at the clock. It was high up on the opposite wall, and he stared at it. His lips moved. He muttered quietly to himself. "Must I hold a candle to my shame?" He looked again at the older boy. "This must end, Philpotts," he said. "This must end now." He put his hand into his pocket, took out a ten shilling note, reached over and pressed it into the pocket of Philpotts' coat. "You have no cause to be buying drinks for men like me. Where do you live?" Philpotts told him. "You a good sort? Eh?"

Philpotts nodded. "I hope so," he said. A slight smile, played round his lips.

"Good. Glad to hear it. Come and take my son out. He gets lonely sometimes. Ring Number 7645. Baywater." He drank off the brandy at one swift gulp. It went down his throat like water. He dropped the cigarette on the floor between his

feet, stood up, took the case, and turned to me. "Come, son. Let's go. He did not look back.

"Goodbye, Philpotts," I said. "Thanks ever so much." I held out my hand to the older boy, a suddenly formal gesture that surprised Philpotts into taking it.

He laughed at me. "God love you," he said. "I'll come up after Christmas."

Then I left, bruvvying, still hurt and awkward with shame, after the already vanished figure of my father.

The taxi moved out through the slush of melting snow in Praed Street. We drove through Sussex Gardens and on to the Baywater Road. We sat in silence. I looked out at the bleak, leafless trees in the park. It had clouded over. The sun had gone in. There was still snow on the grass, but it had melted from pavement and walls and paths, and the wheels of the cab hissed their way down towards Notting Hill Gate.

My father called out, "Right here. But the driver had already slowed and we turned across the traffic into Clarendon Gardens. It was a deserted, graceful cul-de-sac, lined with tall, stately houses, each doorway a pillared, ornate structure, bearing above it a balcony for the first-floor front room. And it was into one of these that we went, up the dry, airless, carpeted stairway, and in through the numbered door.

Home. Two beds with quilted counterpanes. Two pairs of windows, opening to the floor, and leading out onto the stone balustraded balcony. The windows were curtained in white at all times, and with heavier, gold drapes to pull across at night. In the corner of the room stood a cubicle. Concealed within a wooden door, it was the washbasin. There was a double dressing cupboard for eating things, a wardrobe, chests of drawers, tables, chairs. The floor was carpeted. The colours of things, chosen to fit an insipid, undemanding cycle of taste, had faded and bloodied in the grime of post-war London. There was nothing actually squalid in my father's choice of habitations. The components were already familiar to me. I had experienced them so many times, and this room, already becoming part of me, slowly inspected it was also part of an unchanging pattern of faded gentility that fitted my father's tangled pretensions.

Home. It had meaning only in this person, as he stood now on the hearthrug in front of the unit gasfire, staring down at me. My hopes and anticipations for Christmas blurred by fears of something going wrong. I looked back at him. I tried to choke back the tears, but could not. I tried to stoke the fire of my anger, my sense of outrage, my justified reproaches, but could not. "Dad," I said, waiting to say more, and not knowing what to say. "Dad?" And I lunged myself into his outstretched arms, and burst into tears, my sobs shaking my whole body.

"It's no good, old son. It's no good. It's no use pretending. You've used to point his finger at me and say: an old dog like you can't change. He was right. You must learn from my mistakes. That's all." He paused. "Don't cry. No more. You'll just look at me. And I know what the look in your eyes will be like. And I won't be able to say anything or do anything, because I'll know you're right. I'm afraid of that time, when it comes. I tried to shake my head, but my father held it pressed against himself, and tightened his hand against the gesture of denial, knowing it to be false. "We'll be all right. We'll be all right, you and I. We'll make the grade. We'll come out on top. Don't cry, old son. Don't cry. Don't cry." The voice was still slurred. Yet I felt reassured. I was reassured, in a strange way, by my own tears. Not being able to cry, still lay in the future. And it was true, we would come out on top, so long as we stayed together. And I would learn. Yes, I would. But I let the tears come, and I listened to my father's promises. I had heard them so many times. They had never heralded any change in the basic pattern of our life together. Yet still I believed what I heard. What else would there be if I did not?

What else would there be? This was home. This familiar smell of tobacco smoke, alcohol, sweat, body warmth, the easy, relaxed, strong embrace, the rich and persuasive voice. It was what I knew best. It was the best part of all that I knew. In due course I was comforted. I stopped crying. I must rest for a bit now, old

children spilled out in undrains close to the platform, seeing their cases and trunks, the luggage van for trucks, ramps moved up and down a platform. Beatty produced porkpie hat, a bit crumpled, and put it on before giving us wave and disappearing into a crowd. Mock eagles off, snarler was pounced on by his ther: I looked round for my her and decided he must be at the end of the platform. He usually was. I looked at Philpotts.

"See him?", Philpotts said.

"I think he must be at the of the platform," I felt nervous. What would I do if my father had not come? But my father always came. I had seen him off together, part of stream of parents and dren, the different schools mingled. I knew, my father would be there. I knew he was exactly how he did be grinning, his feet did be stamping, his head his hands on his coat-acts, his head jutting forward. A colossus, whose legs used my world, whose d had held me so often, whose heart had dictated me love. I turned to up with Philpotts. The in my hand was awkward heavy. I refused help when I saw him. He stood where he should have d, where he always did, in wide gap and end of form. One. His eyes first the middle distance, just re we were walking, the like angle of his head, the dark grey coat, and his is pushed down hard into pockets.

raised my own hand. The ps ahead of us were spilling off to left and right, the d between clanking out. By he could see me? But I dropped my hand again changed the case over right to left. Then I said. "He is?"

"He is," I said. I ed, my hand sore from handle of the case. We ed on. Then I hesitated. I a prickles of unease. That gaze, that solid, impregnable, those shoulders, set firmly placed in their set brown shoes, all were ey should have been; yet colossus had stayed. All not right, although all was should have been. My's eyes were glazed and had. His face was set in a y bewildered but nervous mask of resignation. I ed again at Philpotts' "Oh, Philpotts. Help I said. "He's drunk." note of desperation in voice was understood hardly by the older boy. His said nothing. He did beck his pace, nor look at me. He just reached and squeezed my arm and moved on directly is the island figure in rear of boys and girls rents.

"No, sir," he said. "My is Philpotts. Here's your father had already by me seen me, and dimly only had raised a hand. The presence of as put him out. He puzzled eyes towards der boy. He felt some shon was needed, but not sure whether it come from Philpotts or myself. "My son," he putting a hand out me, drawing me in embracing me. It was a other than a statement. There was a certain ence in his voice. "My a looked down, as if to ure. Then his voice soft. He was convinced, and no immediate challenge seemed. From Phil Well, your father's had o much to drink. He's a er the weather. Who's hilcox did you say?" ned his puzzled eyes are towards the older a voice was slow and the accent flat, the exaggerated, too, an island in the of moving people. They realize, I thought, all x. How shameful. I with the shame. What spotts think? How did upon me now, my iend? I could smell the a my father. I wanted my face in the rough, y wool of my father's ead I pulled away and my reproachful face up him, my eyes now fill tears. Angry, I tried them off, to will them

nts is the name. Phil. He spoke slowly, and basis, as if to a child, red how it was that understood things so ew just how to speak other when I myself sy or do nothing. In the same house. I go on to Victoria noon, but I wanted u. I thought perhaps d all have a drink in the buffet. The other looked slowly me. He frowned. Then d away again. To his brain the meotion of

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Collecting

Porcelain versus pottery

My first loves in antiques were English pottery and porcelain; and these will be my last in the past fortnight. Sotheby's and Christie's have both held sales of English ceramics which have revived my early infatuation: Sotheby's on January 17, Christie's last Monday.

Neither sale was a block buster, like those of the Ekstein collection of continental porcelain in the 1950s, or of the Rev Mr Sharpe's collection of teapots in the 1960s.

These were rural-the-mill sales; yet between them they covered almost the whole gamut of English ceramics, from London delft drug jars and mortared Whieldon pottery in Chelsea figures and superbly over-decorated Rockingham plates.

Now in convey to a non-affiliated the charms of English ceramics? The collectors who have been seduced by them include the most disparate people, from W. E. Gladstone to Oscar Wilde. Mark Twain confessed that "the very marks on the bottom of a piece of rare crockery are able to throw me into a gibbering ecstasy". Andrew Lang echoed this sentiment (though he was writing about Chinese wares): "There's a joy without a darker. There's a pleasure eternally new."

'Tis to gloat on the glaze and the mark of china that's ancient and blue. But just as some prefer enamelled sylphs and others go for Bettemanians, amazoons, the lovers of ceramics have their ardent preferences. The real rift is between those who prefer pottery and those who choose porcelain. The pottery fellows revel in the surprising lightness of early wares; the variegated glazes of Whieldon

the naive primitivism of the eighteenth-century "pew group" figures. In pottery they find a warmth and integrity lacking in the boudoir frivolities of china. The porcelain addicts, for their part, scorn the grosser medium and take their delight in the juicy glaze of Chelsea soft-paste, the dashing depiction of exotic birds on Derby, the ghostly green glow of the early Worcester body when held up to the light.

De gustibus non est disputandum; but by coincidence the Sotheby sale and the Christie sale offered some illuminating contrasts between pottery and porcelain of the same period—contrasts of shape, "social status", and value then and now.

For example, lot 15 to the Sotheby sale was a good Whieldon-type teapot and cover of large size (710), the globular body raised on three paw feet and applied with a flattened scroll handle and curved spout, glazed to mortared manganese and splashed with dashes of green and ochre, no a pale cream ground, the haluster final being pierced. Lot 213 to the Christie's sale was a Worcester teapot of the Dr Wall period, of faceted globular shape, finely painted with oriental figures among furniture in a fenced garden. This teapot was not dissimilar in shape to the Whieldon-type one, or in size (810) but it fetched £420, while the Whieldon-type, in spite of having a repaired spout (duly noted in the Sotheby catalogue) brought almost as much: £400. But in the eighteenth century, when these pieces were first sold, the pottery example would have been far cheaper than the porcelain.

At that time porcelain was no longer, perhaps, regarded

as it had been in earlier centuries—as a material, with almost magic properties, something to be locked in kings' treasuries with their gold and silver. But it was only in the eighteenth century that the English succeeded in making their own porcelain as an alternative to the oriental imports, and porcelain was sold a luxury product, as was the tea it often contained. Hot pollen had to content themselves with earthenware, though occasionally the upper classes might take a cooedecending interest in the progress of the Staffordshire manufacture, as in a poem of 1740, *Isabella or, The Morning Visit*, by Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, in which he portrayed Isabella, Duchess of Manchester (1692-1786) enthusing over contemporary Staffordshire pottery brought her by Richard, brother of Viscount Bateman:

To please the noble dame, the product a report, made in Staffordshire: With eager eyes the longing Duchess stood, And o'er and o'er the shining handle viewed. "Such wares as this," she cries, "can England do? It equals Dresden, and outdoes St Cloud: All modern China now shall hide its head, And e'en Chantilly must give o'er the trade."

Another Whieldon-versus-Worcester comparison can be made between two mugs in the Sotheby and Christie sales. Here today's prices more accurately reflect the eighteenth-century ratio: the Whieldon pottery example fetched £190, at Sotheby's, while the Worcester porcelain piece made £850 at Christie's. But if I had to express an aesthetic preference between them, I

would choose the Whieldon mug, of which the abstract, non-representational decoration of rummy manganese glaze with streaks of green enhances, and does not distract from, the clean lines of the elegant cylinder body and the characteristic strap handle with pinched kick terminal. By contrast, the rendering of the Beckoning Chinaman on the Worcester mug seems cloddish and provincial.

But—and this is the hardest thing of all to explain to someone not smitten with English ceramics—it is this very naivety and maladroitness that gives English porcelain of that period its appeal. Chinese Song porcelains, in all their perfection, could never win their way to the heart in the way this ridiculous pastiche of the Chinese can. It is the imperfections, of the *ersatz* English pastes—the so-called "moons" that show in Chelsea wares by transmitted light, for example—that beguile: again one thinks of the Betteman girls and their feckling frockies.

As for the pottery versus porcelain conflict, it is unsolvable, and happily it does not matter enough in anyone for the Russians to take note, the Americans the other.

It was again Andrew Lang who made the perfect comparison between the ephemeral quarrels which exercise the world, and the eternal ones which absorb the collector: "The foolish people raging over Bradlaugh and the Brights! They know not the assuaging Of what is 'good' and 'right'! Can kings or clergies alter The crackle on one plate? Can creeds or systems palter With what is truly great?"

Bevis Hillier



Above left: A Whieldon-type teapot and cover, c. 1765. Sotheby's, £400.



Above right: A Worcester (Dr Wall) faceted globular teapot and cover. Christie's, £420.

Left: A Whieldon mug, c. 1760. Sotheby's, £190.

Right: A Worcester (Dr Wall) cylindrical tankard. Painter's mark of a fouled anchor in iron red. Christie's, £850.

Chess

Political pawns

A reader takes me to task for my flippancy treatment of the goings on in the final Candidates match between Korchnoi and Spassky at Belgrade. Now, normally, I follow the practice of the Union of Chess Journalists, to which I have belonged for more than 40 years. In ignoring all critical comment and paying heed only to letters of commendation. But in this instance Mr McIntyre has preceded his criticism with some very nice remarks about my writings and when he finishes his letter by writing that both Korchnoi and Spassky would be troubled and distressed if they changed to read what I had written then I feel I have to explain and justify my attitude in this matter.

As it happens, I count both Spassky and Korchnoi as friends of mine and would be loath to offend them in any way since I admit them not only as great artists on the chessboard but also for their conduct away from the board. Korchnoi's gallant defiance of the might of the Soviet state and Spassky's chivalrous acceptance of his defeat at Fischer's hands at Reykjavik in 1972, a defeat all the more galling for Fischer's antics away from the board, all this had shown them up in the most favourable possible light, not only to chess-players but to the world at large.

And yet, it was precisely in connexion with the match at Reykjavik that I had the sensation of déjà vu at Belgrade. It is not perhaps generally known that when the President of the World Chess Federation, Dr Euwe, left Iceland for home after several days' fruitless negotiations with the Russian and American parties in 1972, he delegated to me in my capacity

as the senior FIDE official on the island the task of representing him there. For two months, three days, and six hours I acted as a sort of emcee grise at the match and, as the tragedy-comedy was played out, I did not know whether to laugh or to cry.

By what turned out to be my singular good fortune, I was not asked to go to Belgrade. But it seems to me that both Korchnoi and Spassky were merely reading to "grandmaster Fischer's footsteps in their extravagant behaviour there. How else can one interpret Korchnoi's expressed belief that someone in the audience was hypnotizing him or Spassky's practice of removing himself from the chess-board even when it was his turn to move and placing himself in a box from which he could view the position on a demonstration board, only emerging to make his move.

According to the testimony of a grandmaster friend whose sober sanity I can trust, an almost universal hysteria pervaded the place. "I seemed to be," he said, "entirely surrounded by lunatics" and it was a sort of cloud-cuckoo-land that could have only been peered through by Breughel the Elder.

Mr McIntyre asks me in his letter to try to define the deeper causes for this extraordinary behaviour and I will do my best at the risk of being thought preposterous or portentous, both of which adjectives carry less stigma than being regarded as frivolous.

It seems to me that this malaise is the dark side of the great progress that the game of chess has made of recent years. Never has chess been as popular as it has become in this decade. It is this very popularity that has made all those

who seek power, whether they are politicians, big businessmen or creators of new "religions", aware to an increasing extent of the possibilities of chess for propaganda purposes. With the extension of the game into the everyday lives of most of the peoples in a world now battle-field has been provided for opposing ideologies.

To me, as a chess idealist, it seems a little disgusting that chess is now part of the grim battle that has always gone on, in my lifetime at any rate, between the oligarchs who rule the Soviet Empire and their capitalist counterparts in the West. So far can be said that to acting as they did at Belgrade Korchnoi and Spassky were merely behaving as their Petruskas and one can only hope that as the fake magician picks up the straw-filled puppets a Stravinsky-like peal of defiance will arise from the orchestra.

I am now examining the games of the match and I find that they are so the whole better than I had thought them at first glance or than I had been led to believe by the first reports. Here, for example, is an excellent game, the third of the match at Belgrade, 1977. White: V. Korchnoi. Black: B. Spassky. English Opening.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. Nc3 Bb6 7. Bg5 O-O 8. Bxf6 Qxf6 9. Qd2 Qc7 10. Bb3 Qc8 11. Qc2 Qc7 12. Bb3 Qc8 13. Qc2 Qc7 14. Bb3 Qc8 15. Qc2 Qc7 16. Bb3 Qc8 17. Qc2 Qc7 18. Bb3 Qc8 19. Qc2 Qc7 20. Bb3 Qc8 21. Qc2 Qc7 22. Bb3 Qc8 23. Qc2 Qc7 24. Bb3 Qc8 25. Qc2 Qc7 26. Bb3 Qc8 27. Qc2 Qc7 28. Bb3 Qc8 29. Qc2 Qc7 30. Bb3 Qc8 31. Qc2 Qc7 32. Bb3 Qc8 33. Qc2 Qc7 34. Bb3 Qc8 35. Qc2 Qc7 36. Bb3 Qc8 37. Qc2 Qc7 38. Bb3 Qc8 39. Qc2 Qc7 40. Bb3 Qc8 41. Qc2 Qc7 42. Bb3 Qc8 43. Qc2 Qc7 44. Bb3 Qc8 45. Qc2 Qc7 46. Bb3 Qc8 47. Qc2 Qc7 48. Bb3 Qc8 49. Qc2 Qc7 50. Bb3 Qc8 51. Qc2 Qc7 52. Bb3 Qc8 53. Qc2 Qc7 54. Bb3 Qc8 55. Qc2 Qc7 56. Bb3 Qc8 57. Qc2 Qc7 58. Bb3 Qc8 59. Qc2 Qc7 60. Bb3 Qc8 61. Qc2 Qc7 62. Bb3 Qc8 63. Qc2 Qc7 64. Bb3 Qc8 65. Qc2 Qc7 66. Bb3 Qc8 67. Qc2 Qc7 68. Bb3 Qc8 69. Qc2 Qc7 70. Bb3 Qc8 71. Qc2 Qc7 72. Bb3 Qc8 73. Qc2 Qc7 74. Bb3 Qc8 75. Qc2 Qc7 76. Bb3 Qc8 77. Qc2 Qc7 78. Bb3 Qc8 79. Qc2 Qc7 80. Bb3 Qc8 81. Qc2 Qc7 82. Bb3 Qc8 83. Qc2 Qc7 84. Bb3 Qc8 85. Qc2 Qc7 86. Bb3 Qc8 87. Qc2 Qc7 88. Bb3 Qc8 89. Qc2 Qc7 90. Bb3 Qc8 91. Qc2 Qc7 92. Bb3 Qc8 93. Qc2 Qc7 94. Bb3 Qc8 95. Qc2 Qc7 96. Bb3 Qc8 97. Qc2 Qc7 98. Bb3 Qc8 99. Qc2 Qc7 100. Bb3 Qc8 101. Qc2 Qc7 102. Bb3 Qc8 103. Qc2 Qc7 104. Bb3 Qc8 105. Qc2 Qc7 106. Bb3 Qc8 107. Qc2 Qc7 108. Bb3 Qc8 109. Qc2 Qc7 110. Bb3 Qc8 111. Qc2 Qc7 112. Bb3 Qc8 113. Qc2 Qc7 114. Bb3 Qc8 115. Qc2 Qc7 116. Bb3 Qc8 117. Qc2 Qc7 118. Bb3 Qc8 119. Qc2 Qc7 120. Bb3 Qc8 121. Qc2 Qc7 122. Bb3 Qc8 123. Qc2 Qc7 124. Bb3 Qc8 125. Qc2 Qc7 126. Bb3 Qc8 127. Qc2 Qc7 128. Bb3 Qc8 129. Qc2 Qc7 130. Bb3 Qc8 131. Qc2 Qc7 132. Bb3 Qc8 133. Qc2 Qc7 134. Bb3 Qc8 135. Qc2 Qc7 136. Bb3 Qc8 137. Qc2 Qc7 138. Bb3 Qc8 139. Qc2 Qc7 140. Bb3 Qc8 141. Qc2 Qc7 142. Bb3 Qc8 143. Qc2 Qc7 144. Bb3 Qc8 145. Qc2 Qc7 146. Bb3 Qc8 147. Qc2 Qc7 148. Bb3 Qc8 149. Qc2 Qc7 150. Bb3 Qc8 151. Qc2 Qc7 152. Bb3 Qc8 153. Qc2 Qc7 154. Bb3 Qc8 155. Qc2 Qc7 156. Bb3 Qc8 157. Qc2 Qc7 158. Bb3 Qc8 159. Qc2 Qc7 160. Bb3 Qc8 161. Qc2 Qc7 162. 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Travel Offshore fun

Pamela Vandyke Price

The Shetland Tourist Organisation has an information centre at Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL and information may also be obtained from the Scottish Tourist Board at 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 3EU.

John Carter

T/LG

FINCE

The truth about Byron's 'lost' poem and a rake called Scrope Davies, who was not such a rogue after all

An article by an American professor in the 1978 issue of *The Byron Journal*, published last Monday, and other recent research, prove that Scrope Davies, who Regency scholar, rake and friend of Lord Byron whose papers were discovered in a Barclays Bank vault in 1976, was not such a rogue as he has been painted.

The main item in the Scrope Davies papers, which are now lodged in the British Library, was the third canto of Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, a fair copy in the hand of Scrope Davies, given to him by John Murray, the publisher, in London.

He also gave Scrope presents for his beloved sister, Augusta Leigh, which Scrope duly handed to her. At the same time, Byron handed a transcript of the poem made by his mistress Claire Clairmont, to Shelley; this was also to be delivered to Murray.

Shelley landed at Portsmouth on September 8, 1816, and handed his copy to Murray on the 11th. But what of Davies's copy? It seemed all too likely from the contents of the Barclays' chest that he had kept the canto and never delivered it.

Byron wrote to Murray from Geneva on September 30, 1816: "You want the original MSS—Mr Davies has the first fair copy, in my own hand." He wrote again to Murray from Diodati on October 5: "I am a good deal surprised that Mr Davies has not yet arrived; he has several small commissions—amongst others the original (fair copy) MSS of the *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*." On October 15, he again wrote to Murray, now with some desperation:

"I hear that Mr Davies has arrived in England—but that of some letters, etc. committed to his care by Mr. H. only HALF have been delivered. This instance naturally makes me feel a little anxious for mine."

and among them the MS which I wished to have compared [my italics] with the one sent by me through the hands of Mr Shelley. . . . Pray have the goodness to ascertain from Mr Davies that no accident (by Customs-house or loss) has befallen them."

He wrote to Murray from Venice, on December 4: "I wanted to know if Mr Davies, of inaccurate memory, had or had not delivered the MS as delivered to him; because if he has not, you will find that he will bountifully bestow extracts and transcriptions on all the curious of his acquaintance, in which case, you will probably find your publication anticipated in the 'Cambridge' or other Chronicle."

In the *Times* of December 20, 1976, describing the discovery of the Davies papers, I wrote of the red leather-bound notebook containing the *Childe Harold* canto: "Davies has been written on the fly-leaf: 'The MS was given by Lord Byron to Scrope Davies at Geneva, September 2nd, 1816.' And I added, with a measure of caution: 'It is hard to resist the conclusion that he deliberately 'lost' the manuscript.'"

Richard Holmes, the biographer of Shelley, also concluded that Scrope must have appropriated the canto (Harper's, United States, April, 1977) but in recent months two quite independent lines of evidence have uncovered conclusive evidence that Scrope was innocent of any such conduct.

In the issue of the *Byron Journal* published today, John Clulbe, Professor of English at the University of Kentucky, and I, as members of the American committee of the Byron Society, cite evidence which goes a long way to vindicate Scrope. "No one seems to have noticed," he writes, "a letter which Davies wrote to Murray from Paris on 17 May 1816. In it he begged the publisher's 'conduct' re-

wards Byron when in the autumn of 1816 I put the third Canto of *Childe Harold* and the Prisoner of Chillon into your hands' (manuscript in the John Murray archive, published with the year dated incorrectly '1837' in Samuel Smiles, *A Publisher and His Friends: Memoir and Correspondence of the Late John Murray London, 1831, II, 420*).

Professor Clulbe concludes from this that "There is a reason to doubt Davies's word that he delivered the manuscript to Murray; certainly he would not have told Byron's publisher an obvious falsehood. But he must have taken his time delivering the manuscript. He had arrived in England after Shelley, and he may have delayed, knowing that Shelley had already handed over to Murray the *Childe Harold* transcript. But Byron, on his way to Italy, would not have been aware of this."

That Professor Clulbe suggests is why Byron wrote to Murray on October 5 and 15, and again on December 4, 1816, inquiring about the fate of the manuscript. Professor Clulbe further suggests: "It is clear that on 2 September, 1816 Byron made an outright gift of Davies's fair copy of *Childe Harold's* third canto, for Davies proudly acknowledges the fact in a note on the manuscript. But it is equally clear from Byron's letters to Murray that he expected Davies to allow the publisher to use the manuscript in preparing the poem for press."

However, unknown to Professor Clulbe, Scrope's letter of 1836 had been noticed by Mr Martin R. Davies, a Bristol solicitor and a kinsman of Scrope Davies—he is a direct descendant of Scrope's eldest brother John. Furthermore, he had made no such discovery. Scrope's letter was conclusively vindicated.

It was already known that in the autumn of 1816 a publisher



Byron: where is my manuscript?

called James Johnson had published and advertised for sale a volume of poems, falsely attributing them to Byron, and that a Chancery injunction had been obtained to put a stop to the sale. It was also known that in these proceedings an affidavit had been sworn by Scrope Davies soon after his return from his visit to Byron in Geneva.

To a letter of January 12, 1817, to Douglas Kinnaird, senior partner of Morland, Raeburn and Co, one of the firms amalgamated into Barclays Bank at the end of the nineteenth century (No 1 Pall Mall East, where the Davies papers were discovered is now called "Kinnaird House") Byron wrote:

"Murray tells me the poems are out. . . . He tells me of a row with an impostor—a bookseller who has been injuriously attributed to Byron, and that a Chancery injunction had been obtained to put a stop to the sale. It was also known that in these proceedings an affidavit had been sworn by Scrope Davies soon after his return from his visit to Byron in Geneva."

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That letter was published in 1976 by the present John Murray in the fifth volume of Byron's letters and journals, edited by Leslie A. Marchand, *So Late into the Night*. Merin

Davies, who is engaged in research in connection with the forthcoming publication of the Scrope Davies papers, decided that he would try to discover whether Scrope's affidavit of 1816 still existed. He was eventually successful in tracing a reference to the papers in the case at the Public Record Office, but these were not separately filed or indexed.

Several weeks later some large boxes were produced, each containing hundreds of affidavits relating to numerous different cases of the period. They were in no sort of order and it was a little obvious that no one had disturbed the documents for at least a century or so.

Martin Davies said: "As I went through these papers I came upon two or three affidavits relating to Byron's *Childe Harold*. Eventually I discovered an important affidavit by John Murray, Byron's publisher, but it was not until I had almost reached the bottom of the last box and had nearly given up hope that I discovered Scrope's own affidavit. There at last I was holding in my hand the very document that Byron would have given a trifle to read the affidavit and could hardly believe my eyes! Here, quite unexpectedly, was proof positive, from sworn, contemporary evidence, that Scrope had indeed delivered the manuscript to Murray in 1816."

The affidavit commenced: "Scrope Berdmore Davies of Kings College Cambridge Esquire maketh Oath and saith That he is intimately acquainted with the said Complainant Lord Byron who is now travelling in Italy. And this Dependant on or about the latter end of August or the beginning of September last parted from the said Complainant near Geneva and brought over from the said Complainant to John Murray of Abchurch Lane in the County of Middlesex [sic] Bookseller two of the last new poems written by the said Complainant be-

ing the Third Canto of *Childe Harold* and the Prisoners of Chillon and for the purpose of the same being sold to the said John Murray hath agreed to give Two thousand Guineas to the said Complainant for the same which said last two poems are wholly distinct from the Works particularly mentioned in the said Bill of Complaint."

The affidavit went on to say that in Scrope's frequent conversations with Byron he had never heard him mention the poems *Johnston* was selling, such as *Pilgrimage to the Holy Land* or *The Tempest of Forcely* or *England* or the poems *To St Helena*, *To My Daughter on the Morning of Her Birth* or *To the Life of France*. He had also never heard Byron say that he had received money from Johnston.

In the *Times* of November 29, 1816, Martin Davies found a full and very entertaining account of the case, including amusing extracts from some of the semi-learned verses which Byron's Bill of Complaint described as "metrical works", not deigning to dignify them with the word "poems".

The *Times* reported: "A *Sil Sammet* Rector, that this was a bill filed by the plaintiff, Lord Byron, against the defendant, a bookseller in Cheapside and Oxford-street; and it prayed that an injunction should grant an injunction to restrain the defendant from publishing certain poems which he had advertised as the work of the plaintiff, but to which the plaintiff was as much a stranger as any person in that Court."

Lord Byron not being in England it was too difficult for counsel to obtain an affidavit of Byron that he was not the author of the poems Johnston was selling under his name; but he could produce another affidavit to that effect: "Mr Scrope Davies [sic], an intimate friend of Lord Byron's, and who was with him abroad, has lately returned to this country with three poems,

for which Mr Murray gave Lordship 2000 [an error: 2000 guineas] and Lord Byron was satisfied that Lord Byron never wrote any of the poems which the defendant is now offering for sale. Mr Murray has been in the habit of conversing with his Le ship in the most confidential manner; he has frequently conversed with him on the subject of money received for copyright of his works, and never heard that the Lord had written any poems."

The Lord Chancellor gave an injunction. Murray was directly involved in the Chancery proceedings and it is inconceivable that he did not know the contents of Scrope's affidavit, or that Scrope had risked a perjury which would have been a clerical error of character and he had already fought several duels to maintain his honour despite what Byron says in his letter.

The unusually large sum of 2,000 guineas was no doubt what Scrope tells Murray: "I nobly behaved in Byron's letter of 1816 on which I fess Clulbe's article is based. On re-reading Byron's splendid letter, I find a new evidence, it is clear, I letters from England, were a long time to reach Byron then in Italy. He did hear of the court case after it had been successfully concluded. Similarly, Mr Davies' letter, which I have anxiously enquired about manuscript long after Scrope had faithfully delivered it for retention by Murray but that Murray could 'compensate' with the transcript. I believe had already happened."

By his renascence: re-read Martin Davies has had satisfaction of clearing name of his kinsman and in Scrope was a gambler and a rake, but he was not a toper; but he was not a toper. Bevis Hill

Telling us what we eat, in plain English

It is true, but no longer very informative, to say that we eat food. It is more accurate in the age of freezer packs, ready meals and hypermarkets to say that we eat products. As food technology advances, it becomes harder than ever to work out what they are made of.

A glance at many of the labels that adorn supermarket shelves show that we do not eat meat, fruit, vegetables and fish so much as emulsifiers, stabilisers, antioxidants, hydrolyzed vegetable protein, flavourings, colourings and other industrial ingredients with names that convey little to the shopper.

Demand for food which keeps its colour, texture, taste and quality long beyond their natural limits and at a low price has forced companies to use materials that are seldom seen or understood outside a laboratory or factory.

The present unsatisfactory state of the law is that lists of ingredients must be shown in order of their presence by weight on the labels of many processed foods and drinks. Biscuits, ice cream and many sweets and mixtures of spices are left out of the ingredient labelling, but they are not obvious to shoppers.

They are not convincing, to those with the power to investigate, judging from a report from the Food Standards Committee, which advises ministers about the food to which food laws. The chaotic appearance and forbidding title belie the revolutionary contents of this report. If ministers adopt the recommendations in *Exemptions From Ingredient Listing* and *Generic Terms* for food and drink labels will never be the same again.

One obstacle which is sure to be seized on by industrial pressure groups defending the status quo is that many of the committee's suggestions conflict with those of the EEC. "We recognize that some exemptions from ingredient declaration are provided in the EEC draft directive in food labelling," the committee says. "It is probable that some of these will be contained in the eventual directive which member states adopt."

"It is not our view that these exemptions are justified, because we emphasize that as a matter of principle, there should no longer be any exemptions from ingredient declaration."

That is a very important change and industry's efforts to fend it off are reflected in some unusually sharp comments from the committee. "We have for some time believed that it is no longer a defensible argument to propose to a consumer, who may be a busy housewife, that to discover the ingredients of, for example, bread or ice cream she should visit the public library or buy the appropriate food standards regulation from HM Stationery Office."

The committee recognizes that if more foods are to carry lists of ingredients then the task of making such lists comprehensible is made even more important. "In some circumstances a simple straightforward term will convey more than a long, chemical name. Preservatives, for instance, will be more understandable than methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate."

"At the same time we are concerned that any generic terms used should not be too widely drawn so that little real information is conveyed when the term is used in an ingredient list. Excluding raw grains, food companies' precise definitions about the use and naming of many chemical additives. The committee has combed carefully through the list suggesting changes, some of which are agreed in opposition to what is sought by the EEC."

It wants the term "floor improver" to be replaced by the more objective "maturing agent". It rejects the term "permitted miscellaneous additives" because it is too vague. It dislikes the word "sequestrant" because "we do not believe that the

average consumer would understand its meaning."

While the EEC favours the terms "thickening agent" and "thickener" the committee finds them "too unhelpful to the consumer". When such committees write reports they are constrained either by the narrowness of their terms of reference or by the presence of overlapping investigations by other bodies.

This time the Food Standards Committee has confronted all such objections head-on. When the committee examined bread and flour in 1974 it did not recommend that their ingredients should be listed on labels because it would have been using and extend the rules to some foods and not others.

This time it has overruled the long-standing arguments of industry against ingredient listing. Bakers say it is unfair to make them list ingredients on wrapped bread when they can not be shown on loaves that are sold unwrapped. Cake-makers claim, in the words of the committee "that as cakes are usually eaten for pleasure only there is little benefit for the consumer in being given a detailed list of ingredients."

The committee rejects those claims and similar ones for sweets and ice cream. It insists on pushing the limits as far as it can. It foresees lists of ingredients on boxes of chocolates, packets of cheese, tins of beer and bottles of whisky. It wants to end the present exemption of butter, saying: "It is doubtful whether consumers are aware that ingredients such as colour are often used."

This remarkably stringent report will interest anyone who would like to know more about what goes into the packets and tins that they buy. Not only is the document interesting and understandable, it is also distributed free.

(Ministry of Agriculture, Room 419, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London, NW1.)

Hugh Clayton

The V & A triangle

Next Wednesday the Central Area Planning Committee of the Greater London Council is going to have to take a difficult decision, with a long history behind it.

For the last 65 years, right in front of the grandiose Edwardian main elevation of the Victoria and Albert Museum, there has been a large vacant lot, now concealed by the usual garish advertising billboards. This is a "bond site", but a location deliberately chosen in 1912 for a new building for the Royal College of Art.

The college has always been closely connected with the V & A: indeed the museum was originally created for the education and emulation of the students in the college, who were housed in studios on its northern perimeter still used by the Schools of Painting and Graphic Arts. Around the turn of the century, the expansion of the college into the crafts, with the consequent need for workshop facilities, created major accommodation problems.

Three front runners have emerged—a block of luxury flats, a prayer centre for the Aga Khan's Muslim community—and the Royal College of Art. The College is back on the scene in a mood of some desperation, its promised development on the Queen's Gate corner having been stymied by a controversial decision of the late Anthony Crossland three years ago.

After an abortive search of dockland with a view to a total move, then a search for alternative sites in the South Kensington academic enclave, the RCA has decided the "V & A triangle" as its last hope for housing its outlying departments, scattered about in odd corners including "temporary" butments built during the Crimean War. It has no desire to break the V & A connection, and has offered the ground floor of its projected building for a museum of contemporary crafts.

Many "developers' competitions" find the judges torn between aesthetic and financial considerations—how much weight to give to two incompatible. In this case the front runners are equally acceptable in the eyes of the Royal Fine Art Commission. So the competition can be a purely financial one. The RCA's fear is that, seen so narrowly, the Aga Khan is bound to win: tied down, as a state institution, to the "district valuer's" assessment, the college is not in the same financial league. Its hope is that the GLC will put the RCA's national role as the nursery of British design in everything from knitwear to motorcars before any other consideration—patriotism before profit.

Prudence Glynn



The forgotten picture of surrender, and the man who went back

The picture shows a bitter moment in the short history of Israel—the surrender of Jerusalem to the Arab forces on May 28, 1948. The man signing the document is Moshe Ruznak, military commander of the Jewish Quarter. The civilian with the cooing look on his face is Mousa el Hussein, a nephew of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and his representative in the old city.

Memories of this moment, hardly the most auspicious in the history of a nation at that time not yet six months old, have been revived this week by the publication of *Jerusalem: A Will to Survive* by John Phillips (Hart-Davis, MacGibbon, £10), a book with a curious genesis and a moving document. Phillips, a Protestant, was a photographer with *Life* magazine, accredited to the Arab Legion, and able to move freely when the assault on the Jewish Quarter began.

It is his pen that you see in the picture. It is also, says Phillips, his picture that is the only record in Israeli hands of the surrender—their copy of the document, which had been

written out in English by a correspondent of *Time* magazine who was present, being lost soon afterwards.

There the story might have ended: a forgotten picture in a photographer's archive. But Teddy Kollek, the ebullient Mayor of Jerusalem, on hearing three years ago about the picture and the others taken by Phillips at the time, proposed that he return to Jerusalem where the Jewish Quarter was now being restored, and find some of the people he had photographed in 1948.

Eventually more than 50 survivors were tracked down, including Moshe Ruznak, now a hospital administrator. Phillips interviewed and photographed them, and slowly the book took shape with the pictures of May, 1948 juxtaposed with those of the survivors today.

Phillips soon realized that these people all suffered from a tremendous feeling of guilt. They had failed, none among their fellow Israelis, and worst of all they had surrendered. It was a shame that they still

felt, even though Jerusalem was now back in Israeli hands.

But the story has a happy post-script. Phillips' photographs were exhibited and the book published in Israel at the time of the Jerusalem International Book Fair last April. The book was news and the survivors found themselves in the headlines. One thing was clear immediately. They need feel shame no longer, a mood confirmed by Moshe Ruznak soon afterwards, in a letter to Phillips.

"My comrades-in-arms and myself," he wrote, "thank you for documenting our story so brilliantly in your book and exhibition. Prior to this we had been looked down upon as possible villains of the piece, but you have made us heroes of an epic. We long have said to ourselves: could we have saved the city? Unfortunately, as your documentary shows, we could not."

As Phillips says now: "The book has more than served its purpose."

Ion Trewin
Library Editor

Fred Emery

Westminster waltz: or who rules, if anyone?

A couple of days, not just that proverbial week, is coming to seem a long time in politics at Westminster. The unpredictabilities of minority government are increasing as Commons voting is joined like a kaleidoscope, with shifting combinations against the Government again digest with the red of its own party dissidents.

Nonsense is being made of easy assumptions. For example, as Liberals gathered in Blackpool last week it was professed by Government supporters that in the unlikely event of the Lib-Lab pact being overturned, the Government could comfortably survive, thank you. "It would covertly rely on the support of Scots and Welsh nationalists, possibly the Ulster Unionists too."

That thought was perhaps father to some odd action which followed, or it could have been merely a tranquillizer for casual incompetence in parliamentary management. For even as the Lib-Lab pact emerged with a shining new six-month lease, and seemed strengthened by Mr David Steel's personal triumph at his party assembly, things promptly went from bad to worse.

First was the oddity of the Government's ill-concealed welcome for its defeat over the "green pound". Pacifying the Liberal demand for a phased devaluation eventually up to 10 per cent over next year to have been difficult for Mr Callaghan. He and Mr Steel have squared rounder circles. But the temptation to blame all other parties for higher food prices was too great.

If that rather spoiled the Government's hitherto peevish posture of statesmanship, what followed in the organ transplanting in the Scotland Bill was far more damaging. There are two serious points. The first, mostly concerning Scottish opinion, is that the presently amended referendum rules requiring a 40 per cent "Yes" vote of the entire Scottish electorate risks being seen as Labour-inflated and Labour-supportive for all that the Government opposed Mr George Cunningham and his rebels. A resultant end to SNP support for the devolution Bill seems imminent, and possibly the Welsh Nationalists might anticipate a similar fate awaits them when the Wales Bill comes on.

A gift to the Tories

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Francis Pym, who leads for Opposition on House of Commons matters, that the P. Minister and some of his have set a disturbing example of floating accepted rules—ever since Mr Callaghan's Home Secretary, defuncted in the Commons by Boundary Commission.

Excepting the green vote, much of the Government's voting parliamentary position arises out of a mixture of bad timing of people, and business planning. The incredible Labour anti-Market know that they have an argument on the EEC elections, but the Government's abrupt imposition of change the affronted them and a resumption fuelled much what followed in the Scottish Bill.

Hearts leading the heads

It did not help in Mr when ministers set up to George Cunningham that Business Assembly was a prompt reasonable beyond change in the Scotland Bill proceedings in wide debate except that its effect was to squeeze out the Cunningham amendment.

Had the Government survived its MPs' blockade rather than building sort mini special assembly of PLP in the grandiose Gra Committee Room, Westminster Hall after the pillory was announced, it is possible that not a single amendment might have been sweeter.

The fundamental trouble that an increasing number Labour MPs have seen opposed to the proposed Scottish Assembly as well as the European Assembly. And the Scots are beginning to let their heads, encouraging the more inflammatory claims in lead ambushes on the of the Government's legislative programme.

Some ministers argue a little of this matter. Government proceeds duly, as IMF gets repaid, and reactors chosen and the T. consulted on the Budget—this the Prime Minister sound admittance towards Brit Leyland. All that counts Parliament is a vote of confidence; other defeats be seen as inconsequential, more so as one gets used to them.

There are some in all parties who would agree with Mr



THE BOURGUA INHERITANCE

ew countries on either shore of the Mediterranean have had such a quiet and untroubled history in the past ten years as Tunisia. Since the eviction of the 'Ahmed Ben Salah, the 'minister' who had tried to drag the entire Tunisian 'nomy' into a form of 'operative socialism' in 1969, only major upheavals have seen the country's sudden swing back from the brink of 'ion with Libya in 1974 and a 'discovery' of a plot to assassinate the President and the 'Minister in 1976. It was 'bly not entirely a coinci- 'ce that Mr Ben Salah's fall, 'ually seen as marking both a 'wing to the right and a con- 'dation of the internal 'sion of President Bour- 'iba's regime, occurred only a 'w days after the Libyan 'olution, and there is no 'ut that since then Mr Bour- 'iba has seen the ambitions of a 'wealthy neighbour, Col. Gadaffi, as constituting the most 'ious threat to Tunisia's inter- 'l stability.

Those ambitions, real or 'gined, also form an essential 'rt of the background to the 'ent crisis. Mr Habib Achour, a leader of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT) 'uch is now in revolt against 'Government, visited Tripoli ' September and had a meet-

ing with Colonel Gaddafi in the 'presence of Mr. Mohammed 'Masmoudi, the former Tunisian 'foreign minister who went into 'cile after the plans for union 'with Libya broke down in 1974. Mr Masmoudi has since returned 'to Tunisia and has several times 'declared his support for the 'UGTT. Meanwhile Mr Achour 'has set up a branch of the UGTT 'in Libya for the fifty thousand 'Tunisian guest-workers there, 'and a member of the UGTT 'executive on a recent visit to 'Tripoli signed a joint com- 'munique with the Libyan trade 'unions supporting the Arab 'firmness from ' against 'President Sadat.

It can be assumed, therefore, 'that Colonel Gaddafi is following 'the Tunisian crisis with lively 'interest. But this time the crisis 'itself can hardly be dismissed 'as the result of a Libyan plot. 'The UGTT has been able to 'bring hundreds of thousands of 'workers out on strike, and 'thousands into the streets to 'risk their lives demonstrating against 'the Government. Most of these 'people are clearly genuinely 'motivated by economic griev- 'ances and the issue more 'immediately at stake—by deter- 'mination to defend the right of 'their trade union to speak on 'its behalf.

That such a crisis can occur 'is in a way a back-handed

tribute to the regime. The very 'existence of a large industrial 'working-class is the result of 'economic development achieved 'without oil or other easily 'marketable natural resources. 'The fact that the officially 'recognized trade union can act 'as a genuine spokesman for 'working-class grievances suggests 'a degree of pluralism highly 'unusual in one-party states; 'and the fact that the revolt has 'not been crushed sooner or more 'brutally also reflects at least a 'relative liberalism and tolerance 'on the regime's side.

There are certainly many worse 'countries to live in, whether for 'workers or for political dis- 'sidents. But, as too often in the 'Third World, political stability 'has been allowed to rest on 'the single pillar of one man's 'personal prestige. President 'Bourguiba's countrymen have a 'lot to thank him for, but for too 'long the cult of his personality 'in Tunisia has been used as a 'substitute for the development 'of a coherent political system. 'We now see a trial of strength 'between rival institutions (the 'trade unions versus the party) 'which are also power-bases for 'rival candidates for the suc- 'cession. There is a danger that 'the issue will be decided by armed 'force, or still worse, by outside 'intervention.

Sharing communion services

From Lord Fletcher
Sir, I should like to welcome and 'endorse the courageous appeal of 'the Archbishop of Canterbury made 'in Westminster Cathedral as 'reported on the front page of 'today's issue (January 26).

This Archbishop was expressing 'the feelings of a great many 'Anglicans, both lay and clerical, 'about our relationship with our 'Roman Catholic fellow Christians 'and our desire to share communion 'with them.

My own experience over the last '10 years or so is that I am welcomed 'and encouraged to take communion 'in Catholic churches on the con- 'fident of Europe in the same way 'that I am welcomed so to do in 'Lutheran churches in Switzerland. 'I find no inconsistency in witness- 'ing to the Christian faith in any 'local community—and doing so 'have no sense of disloyalty to the 'Church of England. Indeed, as the 'Archbishop said in his sermon, one 'is conscious of some coercion for 'one's attitude in this country to 'Catholics in past years.

I must admit I felt some embar- 'rassment at the address in West- 'minster Cathedral in today's 'Times (January 26) your Religious 'Affairs Correspondent slips in his 'own conclusion that is neither 'justified nor true. He states that "An- 'glican thinking is that the remaining 'doctrinal differences between the 'two Churches are so small compared 'with the known areas of agree- 'ment that unity is already suffi- 'ciently present in belief to overcome 'the Roman Catholic objections".

One might ask: "Whose Anglican 'thinking?" and "What does he 'mean by the small doctrinal differ- 'ences?"

Surely, we all pray that the Spirit 'of God will move the Churches in 'new ways towards unity. However, 'these ways must always be in line 'with what the Lord has declared in 'Holy Scripture, over 100 Anglicans 'from throughout the worldwide 'communion signed an "Open Let- 'ter" to the Archbishops and 'Diocesan Bishops on relations be- 'tween the Anglican Churches and 'the Roman Catholic and Orthodox 'Churches. I was happy to put my 'signature to that letter because—

(1) It recognized a new spirit of 'cooperation and openness between 'the Churches in the search for 'theological agreement.

(2) However, it pointed out that 'within this new spirit there were 'areas that cannot (and I would sug- 'gest "dare not") be ignored. More 'discussion and deeper agreement is 'needed in the areas of (i) Scripture, 'and Tradition, (ii) Justification, 'and (iii) Church and Ministry, and (iv) 'the Holy Communion.

Church unity must be based upon 'sure and lasting foundations. If not, 'it will only produce an unstable, 'weak Church.

Yours faithfully,
DON IRVING,
Secretary of Church Society,
7 Wine Office Court, EC4.

There must also be a strong argu- 'ment for polycentricity of institu- 'tions in a Community as opposed to 'one single nation. It would be agree- 'able to see the Parliament fixed in 'Luxembourg, for example, at the 'same time as the new European 'Export Bank came to the most logi- 'cal place, namely, London.

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Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
Pnuse of Commons,
January 25.

As to his structures about jazz 'and the lack of it on Radio 3, 'does he not realize how many 'thousands would resent its in- 'trusion into a programme that they 'regard as a refuge from Radios 1 'and 2? I say this as quite a jazz 'enthusiast, and I am sure that I 'remain yours unrepentantly.

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Woodward Cottage,
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From Dr J. H. Rees
Sir, The inability of your correspon- 'dents (January 25) to agree 'whether they were listening to a 'Schubert or a Schubert Symphony 'seems the best possible reason for 'not broadcasting such music at 7 'o'clock in the morning.

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"Human communities under the 'stress of massing and mobbing show 'signs of similar trends to vicious- 'ness. Maternity units in some of our 'hospitals, offering little opportunity 'for the mothers to nurse their 'babies, remind me all too sharply 'of battery units. Our human world 'is running short of tender loving 'care. How small we become in 'mocking the cow's care for her calf, 'even under the stress we inflict on 'her!

Good wishes,
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From Mr Alan Long
Sir, Mr Stuart-Smith (January 21) 'displays a little of the arrogance 'of the world's most remorseless 'predator, for that is the dubious 'distinction of our own species. Farm 'animals, especially in transit, in 'markets, and on the "joy-ride" to 'the slaughterhouse, are crammed 'together in "cattle-truck" condi- 'tions and unable to establish social 'groups; understandably, they may 'even need to be drugged with 'tranquillizers. Vices, such as can- 'nibalism, will develop in livestock 'kept in the horrendous conditions of 'modern farming, which must induce 'much more than Mr Stuart-Smith's

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

British obligations to dependencies

From Mr John Davies, MP for 'Knaresborough (Conservative)
Sir, Your leading article today '("January 26) "A Talent in Ap- 'pease" does indeed highlight what 'seems to have been a persistent and 'dangerous tendency in the present 'Government's policy about our con- 'tinuing external responsibility. We 'have deep moral obligations to 'Belize, the Falkland Islands, Gib- 'ralter, and indeed other dependen- 'cies. We must not fail to live fully 'up to those obligations.

The one quarrel I have with your 'leading article, is that it seems to 'infer that any British Government 'would behave as the present one 'has. If the record is examined, it 'will be seen that my colleagues in 'the Conservative Party and I have 'repeatedly over the past year or 'more called the Government to 'account for its handling of these 'matters. We have made it abun- 'dantly clear that we disapprove of 'negotiations aimed at ceding the 'territory or interests in those areas 'over which we have jurisdiction, and 'our concern is the greater where 'those negotiations take place with 'countries whose human rights 'records are abysmal.

The inference of your leading 'article that we would have be- 'haved or would behave in govern- 'ment in the same way is wrong, 'and I feel obliged to correct it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIES,
House of Commons,
January 26.

From the Reverend Don Irving
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Talks not only in Belize and Bel- 'mopan with public figures, but at 'random up-country and on the 'Guatemala frontier convinced me 'that many people were genuinely 'afraid that they would "vanish" 'if the present Guatemalan regime 'took over Belize. Furthermore, I 'found deep-seated sympathy for 'Belize's right to self-determination 'among delegates at the conference 'in Mexico City from most other 'Central and South American States.

Some of us who have been critical 'in the past about "End of Empire 'Commitments" hope the Govern- 'ment will stand firm by the side of 'George Price and his colleagues, and 'yield not an inch.

Yours sincerely,
TAM DALYELL,
House of Commons,
January 26.

From Mr R. B. Le Page
Sir, I have just spent some time 'doing fieldwork among the people 'who live along the Guatemalan 'frontier, at all levels of society and 'of all political persuasions or none. 'Many of them have abandoned their 'homes last July, when Guatemalan 'invasion seemed imminent. With- 'out exception they expressed dread 'at being taken over by what they 'regard as a government of thugs. 'They told of rape, murder, the 'confiscation of property and arbi- 'trary imprisonment by police and 'army among their friends and 'relations over the frontier.

The abhorrence of Guatemala 'was as strongly expressed among 'the Maya, Mestizo, Lacandon and 'Spanish populations as among the 'Creoles. Britain has benefited from 'the total consumption of the 'Belizean mahogany forests. If we 'are to spend oil reserves in the 'coming years, let a generous amount 'be allocated to the defence of an 'otherwise defenceless people.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. LE PAGE,
Lowfield House,
Heslington,
Yorkshire.

From Mr Lawrence Gould
Sir, It was reassuring to have the 'geo-political and strategic argu- 'ments set out by Mr Peter Baker 'and placed in a reasoned and his- 'torical perspective by Mr Davidson '("Letters, January 24). We do not 'need, however, to go back to Gar- 'ibaldi or rest entirely on the power- 'politics of the Horn of Africa to 'understand why we should respond 'to a need in a distant country.

I have just returned from the 'Ogaden and my colleagues have 'saidly needed to move down from 'the North West, where we were the 'last Europeans in that area. We 'have left a warm and friendly 'people with whom we have been 'working hand-in-hand to establish 'agricultural land boundaries, pilot 'farms, agricultural training, and 'agricultural extension centres. The 'response that we have met from 'farmers, workers and officials alike 'has been touching as have been 'their endeavours to lift a backward 'area away from an out-dated and 'nomad pattern of farming. Our 'leave-taking of our friends was sad 'and is hopefully temporary.

The picture sometimes presented 'in the West of the Ogaden Somalis 'being an aggressive and vengeful 'people is a distortion. Their aspira- 'tions are primarily peaceful and 'agrarian and they are deserving— 'when the present wasteful conflict 'is resolved—of the fullest possible 'quotient of support and encourage- 'ment from the West.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE GOULD,
2 Church Street,
Warwick.

to help students of art and design. 'Certainly today museum study is as 'important as ever as in art and 'design education.

Hugh Leggett (January 19) argues 'that the same (trustee) status and 'independence as the British 'Museum, the National Gallery and 'the Tate Gallery, would allow the 'Victoria and Albert Museum nor 'simply to include the development 'of the Museum's service that have 'suffered cutbacks but would also 'allow the staff to maintain the very 'high and creative standards we have 'come to expect from them. This 'might well include the development 'of areas that are in danger of 'neglect—far example, modern 'design and traditional functional 'design.

Their Lordships can take care of 'the Upper House but, as Mr Leggett 'suggests, perhaps the only thing 'must be our way of initiating the 'obvious change through the 'Commons.

Yours,
NIKOLAUS BOULTING,
Central School of Art and Design,
Northampton Row, WC1,
January 20.

Singing tremulously
From Mr D. E. A. Sibley
Sir, The Victorian songs and 'ballads that are heard with growing 'frequency on the BBC are almost 'always sung in very melodramatic 'style, the singer using a marked 'tremolo or vibrato. This may be 'emphatic, but is it authentic?

Gramophone records made in the '1900s suggest that singers of these 'days—who must at least have been 'trained in the late Victorian era— 'performed with notable restraint 'and certainly with very little 'tremolo.

The records of Adeline Paton are 'especially interesting. Her singing 'career (1850 to 1905) was nearly 'as long as Victoria's reign, and 'since she was very greatly admired 'she must have had on little 'influence on the vocal style of her 'time. Now Paton considered exces- 'sive tremolo "the most objection- 'able and inexcusable of vocal 'faults".

She undoubtedly practised what 'she preached. Her records, made in '1905-06 at the age of 62, reveal a 'voice whose steadiness (and sweet- 'ness) was very greatly admired 'and which was the envy of many 'soprano half her age.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS SIBLEY,
25 Westmont Avenue,
Chatham,
Kent,
January 20.

AFEGUARDS FOR SATELLITES

e Russian satellite which 'integrated over Canada this 'week has given a fair warning 'of the dangers that can arise 'from putting nuclear reactors in 'space. This was not the first 'time that a satellite with 'radioactive material on board 'came down through the 'atmosphere. But it was the first 'time that has involved one of the 'all reactors used by the 'Russians in some of their space- 'craft, and it could have done 'considerable damage if it had 'descended without being burnt up 'on the way down, in a populated 'area. As it happened, it disinte- 'grated over a remote part of 'stern Canada, and it is still 'clear how much of it 'rained the fall through the 'atmosphere. But this was a 'matter of chance, since the 'satellite had gone completely 'out of control before plunging 'earth.

his, presumably was why the 'Russians showed so much 'concern about Cosmos 954 when 'it was noticed that it was behaving 'unusually last month. They knew 'it was a military satellite, 'and that it used a nuclear 'reactor, which has Uranium 235 'fuel and has a chain reaction 'that produces other radioactive 'materials. By their own account, 'Americans have only once 'reached a satellite with this 'type of reactor on board, in '1958, and have since given up 'the technique. But the Russians 'have put these reactors in 'rally of their spacecraft,

especially their surveillance 'satellites, because they find them 'better suited than solar panels 'to the low orbits they are 'required to fly.

Their normal procedure, when 'one of them runs into trouble, 'is to eject the reactor far out into 'space into an orbit which will 'keep it away from the earth for 'anything from 500 to 1,000 'years. During this time, the 'radioactivity gradually decays. 'The Americans estimate that the 'Russians have done this more 'than 10 times, and they them- 'selves did the same with their 'reactor. Unfortunately, however, 'Cosmos 954 went out of control 'last month, and the ejection 'method failed. The Americans 'raised the issue with the 'Russians, and received an assu- 'rance that there was no danger 'of a nuclear explosion, but 'remained anxious about what 'might happen.

Clearly an incident of this 'sort is of concern to more than 'just the Russians, the Americans 'and the Canadians. There is 'suggestion that the Russians 'have done anything illegal, since 'the main United Nations treaty 'on outer space, which came into 'effect in 1967 and bans the use 'of nuclear weapons in space, 'does not mention this sort of 'use of radioactive materials. But 'no country can be bappy with 'the thought that something 'might go wrong another time, 'and radioactive materials land 'somewhere else. The proper 'place for taking it up is

obviously the United Nations 'Committee on the Peaceful Uses 'of Outer Space, which has now 'been responsible for four inter- 'national agreements on different 'aspects of the use of space, from 'liability for damage to the 'registration of objects that are 'launched.

It will not be easy to reach 'agreement, not least because of 'the sensitivity that the Russians 'are bound to show over satellites 'they put to military use. Even 'in this case, they were reluctant 'to give information when they 'were first approached by the 'Americans, and would presum- 'ably have wanted to bush it all 'up if they had had the chance. 'The Americans, too, have 'experimented with small nuclear 'generators in some of their 'satellites, though they have 'usually been smaller than the 'Russian reactors. They have 'used radioactive materials, 'which create heat, but have not 'involved the chain reaction 'associated with Uranium 235. 'But the dangers are such that 'the international community has 'to decide whether it wants to 'continue to run the risks 'revealed by this week's incident. 'In their comments on the case, 'the Americans have taken great 'trouble not to put the Russians 'in the dock, and have talked of 'very effective international co- 'operation. If nuclear materials 'are to continue to be used in 'space, there should at least be a 'freer exchange of information 'about them.

From the Right Reverend L. M. 'Charles-Edwards
Sir, How splendidly right the Arch- 'bishop of Canterbury is when he 'says "We have talked about the 'pains of disunity long enough. Now 'let us act."

Endless discussions, conferences 'and weeks of prayer for Christian 'unity can in the long run, if other 'things are done, hamper rather 'than help the cause of unity.

The failure of the Anglican/ 'Methodist scheme, when most of 'the dioceses and the Methodist 'Conference had voted in favour, 'is a case in point, leaving many 'sincere people wondering how far, 'if at all, Christians love each other.

It seems so obvious that a divi- 'sion, new equipment at Luxem- 'bourg, neither the dioceses nor 'the prevailing attitude of in- 'difference to Christianity.

On a personal note. This last 'Christmas we had a real family

European Parliament site
From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Har- 'row, East (Conservative)
Sir, Mr Dibble's letter (January 25 'edition) on the siding of the Euro- 'pean Parliament merely refers to 'the arguments for Brussels as the 'logical future site. It certainly 'could argue that there is no logic 'in its present nomadic existence 'continuing.

However, there are strong argu- 'ments for Luxembourg, which 'should not be dismissed too easily. 'There is a marked contrast to any 'residual arguments for Strasbourg 'which are increasingly overtaken by 'history and events.

Although there are travel complica- 'tions to Luxembourg at present, 'these would undoubtedly be reduced 'quickly in the future if the Luxem- 'bourg Government could confidently 'expect the Parliament to stay there 'permanently. Moreover, although 'the regular incidence of fog adds 'to travel complications in the win- 'ter, this is not a problem for the 'Airport over the next decade would 'undoubtedly take care of much of 'this headache.

It has been put to me also that 'Luxair would wish to add to her 'fleet of commercial planes if 'greater traffic and the appropriate 'financing arrangements could be 'secured.

Music on Radio 3
From Mr Antony Hopkins
Sir, Since Barry Fantoni singled 'me out by name (even if wrongly 'spelt) in his diatribe against Radio '3 (article, January 21), may I be 'given the right to reply. At the 'time I have been instructed not 'to have I felt it my duty to 'ensure that there were no backsliders 'on the cultural voyage. When I 'talk about music I do so because I 'believe that it is an age-old 'technical miracle of radio and 'gramophone have made it so easily 'available that there is so increasing 'danger that people just hear it 'rather than listening to it.

My purpose is to try to show 'that there is more to it than just 'the sound it makes. If it is the pro- 'cess I make a few converts, well 'and good. To receive a letter from 'an 84-year-old woman who at 80 'loathed "modern" music but who 'in the space of four years had 'come to love it on Bertok as one of 'her favourite composers seems to 'me to justify my programme.

As to his structures about jazz 'and the lack of it on Radio 3, 'does he not realize how many 'thousands would resent its in- 'trusion into a programme that they 'regard as a refuge from Radios 1 'and 2? I say this as quite a jazz 'enthusiast, and I am sure that I 'remain yours unrepentantly.

ANTONY HOPKINS,
Woodward Cottage,
Ashridge,
Berkhamstead,
Hertfordshire.

From Dr J. H. Rees
Sir, The inability of your correspon- 'dents (January 25) to agree 'whether they were listening to a 'Schubert or a Schubert Symphony 'seems the best possible reason for 'not broadcasting such music at 7 'o'clock in the morning.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REES,
Ridgeway House,
Dixie Harwell,
Oxfordshire.

"A quite unreasonable fear" in 'them—as well as to some human 'observers.

"Human communities under the 'stress of massing and mobbing show 'signs of similar trends to vicious- 'ness. Maternity units in some of our 'hospitals, offering little opportunity 'for the mothers to nurse their 'babies, remind me all too sharply 'of battery units. Our human world 'is running short of tender loving 'care. How small we become in 'mocking the cow's care for her calf, 'even under the stress we inflict on 'her!

Good wishes,
ALAN LONG,
The Vegetarian Society,
53 Marlborough Road, W8.

Behaving like animals
From Mr Alan Long
Sir, Mr Stuart-Smith (January 21) 'displays a little of the arrogance 'of the world's most remorseless 'predator, for that is the dubious 'distinction of our own species. Farm 'animals, especially in transit, in 'markets, and on the "joy-ride" to 'the slaughterhouse, are crammed 'together in "cattle-truck" condi- 'tions and unable to establish social 'groups; understandably, they may 'even need to be drugged with 'tranquillizers. Vices, such as can- 'nibalism, will develop in livestock 'kept in the horrendous conditions of 'modern farming, which must induce 'much more than Mr Stuart-Smith's

OT THE TIME FOR ANOTHER UPHEAVAL

tol, now effectively a mere 'dict in the county of Avon, 'for hundreds of years one of 'most august municipal 's in the kingdom, with a 'and independence second 'to that of London. Such an 'throw is not forgotten or 'even quickly—it certainly 'not been in the short four 'since Bristol and many 'large cities were stripped 'ast of their powers. So when 'Peter Shore speaks there 'to the Labour local govern- 'conference he could hardly 'for a more appropriate 'and if he were to announce 'some of its lost glory was 'restored. To judge from 'one of statements he made 'year, he would be glad to 'There is a growing outcry 'manipulation from the larger 'of the county, with a 'and independence second 'to that of London. Such an 'throw is not forgotten or 'even quickly—it certainly 'not been in the short four 'since Bristol and many 'large cities were stripped 'ast of their powers. So when 'Peter Shore speaks there 'to the Labour local govern- 'conference he could hardly 'for a more appropriate 'and if he were to announce 'some of its lost glory was 'restored. To judge from 'one of statements he made 'year, he would be glad to

show how it would work under 'ordinary conditions.

Another universal at this 'stage could only be justified if 'it promised unmistakable and 'widespread benefits. It cannot be 'said that the councils calling for 'the restoration of their powers 'have come anywhere near show- 'ing that such benefits would 'follow. When there were ten of 'them, all with historic names, 'it might have been tempting to 'feel that the upheaval might not 'be so very great after all. But 'there are 32 now. There is no 'threshold of size below which 'towns cease to resent the 'domination of counties over 'them, or to suppose that they 'could run things better them- 'selves.

The old county boroughs, 'which were more or less self- 'sufficient in local matters, 'generally ran their affairs with 'efficiency and great civic pride 'in the sense of identity in a 'community is a factor that was taken 'too little into account in 1974). 'But they were too small to sus- 'tain some modern services and 'they were often at war with their 'neighbouring counties, which, 'lacking their resources of 'ratable value, tended to be rela- 'tively backwards in their stan- 'dards of provision. This tension 'between town and country 'is something ingrained, and the 'new system contains it better 'than the old one, though less 'well than it might have done.

The aggrieved districts do not 'ask for all their powers back. 'Their main demands are for 'education and for social services. 'The ten largest have populations 'not very far from the level of '250,000 that the Redcliffe-Maud

report considered the minimum 'capable of providing those ser- 'vices efficiently. Since those 'days our sense of the advantages 'of scale has in any case become 'a little less acute. The case for 'moving education, where account 'must also be taken of the diffi- 'culty of the county in making 'adequate provision if it were to 'lose the city schools, is less 'strong than the case for moving 'social services. The latter gain 'in many ways from being 'organized in such a way that 'they are responsive to the needs 'of individuals and small com- 'munities. They also need to 'work in close contact with hous- 'ing services, which are a district 'responsibility.

There is no ideal size for a 'council: it is either too

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

We pay a lot of tax in Britain; no more in total perhaps than in many other Western countries, but at present rates the margin (ie, the last slice of income upon which the individual's top rate of tax is levied). So the very least we deserve is a simple system which we can all understand, and that is precisely what we do not have at present.

Our tax structure has been subject to piecemeal development over the years; it has been manipulated as a process of social engineering and become hopelessly intertwined with the worst aspects of the social security system. Add inflation to the mixture and the result is a mess.

The Meade Report, *The Structure and Reform of Direct Taxation*, for the Institute of Fiscal Studies, which was published earlier in the week, is the work of both theoreticians—academic economists—and the tax lawyers and accountants who provide the complementary practical expertise in taxation matters.

As everyone must have heard by now, the report's fundamental conclusion is that we should switch from a tax regime based on income to one based on expenditure. If at first that sounds like a radical proposal, it is its novelty, not its inherent obfuscation.

The essential feature about a tax on expenditure rather than on income is that it would shift the weight of taxation from those who earn and save to those who, to quote the report, "spend lavishly" out of capital gains—at present subject only to the flat 30 per cent gains tax rate at the moment—or live off capital, which attracts, as yet anyway, no tax in our system.

Margaret Stone looks at proposals for a radical change in the tax system

A welcome draught of Meade...

Two methods of operating an expenditure tax are discussed in the report. Assuming an overnight switch to a fully-fledged expenditure tax on all, one method would be to take the individual's income, plus certain other receipts such as the sale of some assets, including a house, and deducting from that total fixed payments, such as for example the purchase of securities or mortgage interest.

The balance, "consumption", would then be subject to the expenditure tax which would be on a rising scale. Without some form of self-assessment, as the report acknowledges, it is not very practicable.

The alternative, of subjecting only existing higher rate taxpayers to an expenditure-surplus tax, would also ease the problems of transition from one tax system to another.

This is an important point with which the Meade Report agrees. It "stresses the need to avoid a once-for-all gigantic upheaval of the whole existing tax structure".

The tax system, although in need of reform, is more urgently in need of respite from change. What Meade would like is to have an expenditure tax defined as a long-term objective towards which step-by-step changes taken to remove anomalies will always be aiming.

The two other recommendations of the Meade Report are integral to the central theme of a switch from an income to an expenditure tax. These are the adoption of the "new Beveridge" scheme, which by increasing tax thresholds, improving national insurance benefits and moving to cash benefits rather than tax allowances should eliminate the notorious "poverty trap".

At the other end of the scale, there is the problem (?) of the accumulated wealth which more of us would be able to achieve under an expenditure

tax system. The Meade Report supports a wealth tax, but agrees that there is a certain element of fantasy about levying savings roll-up tax free and then subjecting them to such a tax.

However, it believes that a balance between the conflicting objectives has to be struck. The answer, it suggests, is to pitch the wealth tax threshold at a fairly high level.

In looking at, and indeed welcoming, the conclusions of the Meade Report, it is easy to overlook the rationale for the recommended switch. One important reason is the distortion built into the present income tax system by the anomalous treatment of different forms of saving.

Not only is the return that the saver receives on his money—via the actual return received on those savings by the investment manager—affected by the different tax rates, but it is also affected by, among other things, the choice of investment medium, and the different tax rules they work

Most notably Meade is talking about building societies, where the interest is tax paid for the basic rate investor; life assurance funds, which attract tax relief; and certain forms of income tax; pension funds to which contributions are tax free; and certain forms of National Savings which are also tax free.

If an expenditure tax is adopted, then the direct corollary is that all forms of savings will be free of tax. So where will that leave the savings institutions? For some, living on investment performance merit rather than tax efficiency may not be as easy as it sounds.

and whose level of business it is predicted by Research Associates will expand—have gone independent is appreciated by the present Government. Proposals are being considered, at a small pace, to merge the National Savings Bank (the Post Office bank of old) with Giro into a new state bank. The survey seems to support the view that there could be a need for this.

Insurance companies fare a little better, but not much. Young people believe in the principle of insurance but consider that the companies have a "low profile". People are uncertain how and where to deal with them and they are suspicious of salesmen.

But there is some good news for all the savings media. The survey shows that people expect to save the same overall in 1978 as they did last year.

Taxation

Working in order to eat—or the reverse?

The tax case examined this week is a little older than the previous two I have discussed but is an important one for many self-employed people.

It is often necessary, because of the demands of work, for a self-employed person to throw expense to the wind and eat out rather than more cheaply at home. Mr Quinn did just that and claimed that the difference between the cost of dining out and eating at home was tax deductible (*Callisborne v Quinn* (1975)).

Mr Quinn was a self-employed carpenter carrying on business from his home in Wellesborough. He worked as a sub-contractor on various sites within a 40-mile radius of his home and travelled to work and back home again each day. However, the building sites were too far from home to enable him to return for lunch and when working he bought his lunch at a public house or cafe.

His claim was a modest one. He spent an average of 40p on his lunches, whereas the average cost of eating at home was only 10p—so he claimed a deduction under section 130 Taxes Act 1970 for the difference of 30p as an expense wholly and exclusively incurred for business purposes. He also claimed that his lunch expenses taken at mid-morning and mid-afternoon on working days.

The general commissioners decided that the additional cost of lunches was allowable but not the tea break expenditure. It rarely happens that both parties—the taxpayer and the Inland Revenue—are dissatisfied with the commissioners' decision, but it was so in this case and an appeal was made to the High Court.

Some judgments are particularly readable because of the interesting analogies which give a clear insight to the pronouncer's reasoning. Take Mr Justice Templeman in this case: "A Schedule D taxpayer, like every other taxpayer, must eat to live; he does not eat in order to work. Counsel for the Crown submits—and I accept—that in these circumstances no



"And, pray sir, which portion is to go on the expense account—the baked beans or the chip butty?"

part of the cost of the taxpayer's lunch was 'exclusively' expended for the purpose of his trade as a carpenter.

"The cost of tea consumed by an actor at the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* is different, for in that case the quenching of thirst is incidental to the playing of the part. The cost of protective clothing worn in the course of carrying on a trade will be deductible, because warmth and decency are incidental to the protection necessary to the carrying on of the trade. There is no such connection between eating and carpentry."

The judge then referred to the difficulty of apportionment under the taxing Act where expenditure has both a personal and a business implication ("duality of purpose") as it is not without significance that in the present case the taxpayer does not claim the whole cost of his lunch as an allowable expense, but only part of the cost. This attempt to apportion discloses the duality of purpose that is fatal under section 130.

It is not possible to divide up a meal or the expense of a meal, so that the first sandwiches or the first 10p are attributable to the taxpayer and the residue to his business. Nor do I accept the logic of the suggested method of apportionment. No one has a divine right to work and eat at home, or to eat at his place of business, or to measure the cost of his appetite by the cheapest method which would have been available to him if he had chosen to conduct his business in some fashion other than that which he in fact chooses.

So Mr Quinn lost his deduction for both lunches and light refreshments. However, let me hasten to assure readers that such a narrow view is not necessarily taken by the Inland Revenue where extensive travelling is necessary in the course of one's work. This is particularly so where overnight stays away from home are unavoidable. Whether or not the excess cost of eating away from

home is tax deductible will depend upon the circumstances.

In conclusion it is interesting to contrast the rule for the self-employed with that for an employee. In this latter case the Inland Revenue's attitude towards subsistence has been officially stated as follows.

"Strictly only the extra cost of living away from home qualifies as a deduction from the employee's remuneration for tax purposes. If, however, there are continuing financial commitments at home the whole cost of living away from home is normally allowed."

"This concession is not, however, made if the employee has no permanent residence—for example, a bachelor who normally lives in a hotel or club and who gives up his accommodation when he is away on a business trip. Further, the cost of subsistence is not allowed as a deduction under the expenses rule if it is unconnected with travel away from the employee's main place of work."

Vera Di Palma

Savings

What young savers think about the banks

Building societies, banks and the insurance companies will all, no doubt, be delighted to hear that more than 80 per cent of under-35s save—and that most of them would like to save more.

But several of the savings institutions, notably the clearing banks, need to brush up their image and practice if they are to hold the loyalty of the younger saver.

This is the verdict of an investigation into the savings habits of the 18-35 age group conducted by the Staffordshire-based Research Associates. "How Young People Choose Where to Save" is based on group discussions among 65 young people and a national survey among 1,000 respondents.

Building societies and banks are regarded as by far the most important ways of saving, but this does not mean that young people like them both equally—they don't. Research Associates found that while building societies have an "excellent" image, because they meet all the requirements and provide a vital allied service of saving and borrowing, that of the banks was much less good.

Clearing banks, who are already distinctly worried about the growing dominance of building societies in their traditional markets, should read what young people think about them; it ought to make them even more worried.

In the group discussions Research Associates found that, although banks provide a necessary money handling service, they are criticised for poor deposit interest, authoritative attitudes, impersonal service, Saturday closing, counter delays and a lack of positive advice to savers.

These are damning criticisms and certainly the banks will argue that some of the remarks are prejudiced. Building societies counter these criticisms, particularly on Saturday mornings, are getting nearly as long and slow-moving as those at bank counters. With which other advisers, too, are the clearing banks being compared when they are accused of not giving positive advice?

But should they not also be doing something to counter the apparent impression that banks are a necessary evil?

However, the clearing banks are not alone in being attacked by the young. "The Giro system is not understood" and there is very little interest in it," say Research Associates.

The National Savings Bank is regarded as useful for small savings, children and pensioners but, because it is widely considered that it pays low interest, it is not thought of for "serious savings".

This gap in the Government's banking services, now that the Trustee Savings Banks—fairly highly regarded in the survey

and whose level of business it is predicted by Research Associates will expand—have gone independent is appreciated by the present Government. Proposals are being considered, at a small pace, to merge the National Savings Bank (the Post Office bank of old) with Giro into a new state bank. The survey seems to support the view that there could be a need for this.

Insurance companies fare a little better, but not much. Young people believe in the principle of insurance but consider that the companies have a "low profile". People are uncertain how and where to deal with them and they are suspicious of salesmen.

But there is some good news for all the savings media. The survey shows that people expect to save the same overall in 1978 as they did last year.

MS

Round-up

The TSBs play a credit card

The Trustee Savings Banks this week announced an important new step in the expansion of customer services. They are to join the Visa International credit card group—Barclaycard is the biggest United Kingdom member—from the beginning of November.

The new facility will be promoted through TSB branches by letting the Trustee Savings Banks Act of 1976, granting independence from National Savings, the TSBs have been

using in exactly the same way, at the same 100,000 retail outlets in the United Kingdom.

Barclaycard is at present accepted. It will bear the same interest rate too—11 per cent a month.

The TSBs have been particularly anxious to expand credit services to customers and last year began offering personal loans. Since the Trustee Savings Banks Act of 1976, granting independence from National Savings, the TSBs have been

having talks with the United Kingdom's two major credit card groups. Access and Barclaycard.

Barclaycard accounts for just over half the 7.4 million credit cards in the United Kingdom. It will undertake all the processing functions as agents of the new Trustcard operation.

The latest Money Management handbook, *Self Employed Pensions*, provides—as indeed do

all the MM publications—an excellent guide to a complex and confusing subject. In the run-up to the introduction of the new state earnings related scheme next April employees learn a lot about the matter, but if you are one of the country's two million self-employed this handbook—a little pricey, it must be admitted, at £6.50—will help you choose from the 90 policies examining one that might most suit your circumstances.

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Change of tune



Mr Roy Cox, chief general manager of the Alliance Building Society, interest rate paid to investors is maintained at 6.7 per cent.

Roy Cox, the chief general manager of the Alliance Building Society, has changed his tune since last October. On Thursday he decided to join the rebels by refusing to drop the rate paid to investors from 6.7 to 6 per cent in line with Building Societies Association policy.

He defends his action by saying: "We owe something to our investors." But last October, when three other societies refused to cut their investment rate, Cox was critical. He felt then that surpluses should be held in reserve as a cushion for when the mortgage next had to rise.

Reminded of his about-turn Cox was rather rueful and said: "Frankly I thought the next change would be upwards." He added: "I did indicate that it (a very healthy surplus) was an element we would use some time; we've decided to use it this time."

While Wall Street is still at a low ebb and the pound flies high, there can surely be no time like the present for buying into the United States stock market if you believe that sooner or later share prices there will recover.

Some 70 per cent of the new Universal unit trust fund launched this week by National Westminster is earmarked for investment in Wall Street.

"It is one thing to have statutory law; it is quite another to interpret it," says our tax contributor Vera Di Palma in the opening chapter of her book *Your Fringe Benefits* published this week.

The new book is a comprehensive and helpful guide to one of the trickier aspects of personal taxation.

*David & Charles, £3.95.

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Widely acclaimed by financial journalists and investment advisers, M&G's Recovery Fund, designed to produce capital growth, ended 1977 as Britain's best-performing unit trust. It also leads over the two year and six year periods. It has a policy of buying the shares of companies that have fallen upon hard times. Many of these companies recover, and through a process of careful selection M&G has been able to bring high rewards over the years to Recovery Fund investors.

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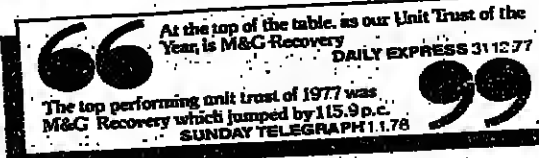
which gives you a positive arithmetical advantage, because your regular investment buys more units when the price is low and fewer when it is high. You also get life cover of at least 180 times your monthly payment throughout the period if your age at entry is 54 or under (women 58), and rather less up to 75.

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THE M&G GROUP

Tax worries over new hare scheme

A new and novel plan to use private company shares to realise part of their wealth without losing control or incurring immediate capital gains tax, has been unveiled by a group of tax advisers in London.

The scheme, which is being marketed by a group of tax advisers in London, is based on the use of private company shares. It involves the transfer of shares from one individual to another, with the aim of realising a portion of their wealth without incurring immediate capital gains tax.

The scheme is based on the use of private company shares. It involves the transfer of shares from one individual to another, with the aim of realising a portion of their wealth without incurring immediate capital gains tax.

A 25 per cent stake in Bristol paper makers AP Burt was sold to the Estates Duties Investment Trust (EDITH) in return for EDITH shares and cash, without the family vendors having to pay immediate capital gains tax on the securities.

But, according to the scheme, the family vendors would not be required to pay capital gains tax on the securities. The scheme is based on the use of private company shares.

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The crucial difference between this and the Burt test case is that it involves the selling on of the shares to a third party and, at one stage in the proceedings, the actual realisation of cash in the hands of the unit trust group.

The attitude of the Inland Revenue to such a proposition seems less clear to some of the experts in this field than it does to Pointon York, who state: "The Act provides for a 'clearance procedure' with the Revenue as the outset. Certain arrangements exist between the Revenue and large unit trust groups to deal with this type of arrangement on a fairly standard basis."

But the 1977 Finance Act makes it known that, while there is a clearance procedure, each transaction is to be looked at on its own merits with detailed particulars furnished to the Inland Revenue.

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Motor insurance

If 'knock for knock' takes a knock

Over the years there have been plenty of critics of the "knock for knock" agreement which the majority of motor insurers (both companies and syndicates at Lloyd's) operate among themselves. Nevertheless, it has certain advantages for every motorist.

As is well known, the practical effect of the agreement (without going into the inevitable "small print") is that when two cars, comprehensively insured, have been in collision, each insurer settles the cost of the damage to the car which it insures, without considering where the blame for the accident might lie.

That, of course, is a rough and ready arrangement, using the familiar "swings and roundabouts" principle. Where insurers have roughly comparable portfolios of business, they should not gain or suffer too much. They, and policyholders, stand to benefit since there is no waste of time (or expense) in arguing about



Under the "knock-for-knock" agreement each insurer settles the cost of the damage to the car which it insures, whether it is a Rolls-Royce or Mini, without considering where the blame for the accident may lie.

which motorist was to blame for the accident—except between an insurer and its own policyholder, when the latter feels his no-claim discount should not suffer at the next renewal.

One of the problems with the agreement is that, as all premiums continue to rise sharply and motor insurance continues to be highly competitive, not everybody wants a rough and ready arrangement which upsets their statistics.

It is all very well for a company to try to pick careful motorists (which will involve offering them special terms), but because of the knock-for-knock agreement, a significant proportion of that company's total claims cost will be in

respect of the negligence of other motorists (which the company might never have been prepared to take on as policyholder).

However careful, therefore, a company may be in keeping statistics, they will be upset by the claims settled in respect of the negligence of other motorists; and, of course, part of the cost of the negligence of a company's own motorists (ie, the damage to other comprehensively insured vehicles) will be met by their insurers.

From a motorist's point of view, it can be argued that premium differentials between types of car are greater than if the agreement was not in force. This is because, with the agreement, claims costs are related

more directly to the car insured.

If, with the agreement in force, a company insures a Rolls-Royce whenever it is in collision with any other car (ie, it is always the cost of repairing the Rolls-Royce which will have to be paid. At the other end of the scale a company insuring a Mini will always pay for the cost of repairing that car when the agreement is in force, irrespective of which driver was to blame for the accident).

If, however, there is any major acceleration in the trend away from comprehensive cover, the knock-for-knock agreement would be less useful. Should the position be reached where comprehensive cover is no longer the norm

for a car of reasonable value being driven by a mature driver, greater attention may be paid to the whole question of who was at fault in an accident.

Third party cover will protect one from claims made by others, but if one's car is damaged and it is felt that it was caused by the negligence of the other motorist, how does one recover the cost of the repairs to one's car from him or from his insurers?

One's own insurance company will not be interested and, while brokers sometimes give help in recovering an excess under a comprehensive policy, most are not really equipped to act in this way. It looks as though there will be more business for solicitors, although, at present, in some areas, there appears to be a certain reluctance on the part of solicitors to take on this type of work.

Certainly, a move in this direction nearer to the position obtaining in the United States (where the cost of repairs to a car is always the cost of repairing the Rolls-Royce which will have to be paid. At the other end of the scale a company insuring a Mini will always pay for the cost of repairing that car when the agreement is in force, irrespective of which driver was to blame for the accident).

Otherwise (without comprehensive cover) one may be convinced that an accident was caused by the other motorist but find it very difficult and/or expensive to recover the cost of the repairs from him.

John Drummond

Share's week

Grab days in the market

been one of the most hectic weeks trading the market has seen for some time. There were not many but, with even fewer, the FT ordinary share slipped down to close 5s lower on the week.

Second-line stocks, have seen most of the over the past few weeks, a little to attract friends and a little to economic and all news and company statements to stir any in-

farred little better, at the beginning of the year a possible further minimum lending rate likely to be cut on Thursday, the Bank of England is steady as she goes. The money markets, with no fresh incentive to support the dollar, the weekend, there was way for the government to go to both and "long" finished with net losses. Profit figures had a slight rise, but the market followed initial but the leaders, seen little trading, week much as with with ICI at 345p, at 650p, Unilever, at Glaxo at 595p.

Disappointment over the Government's interim compensation payments to the shipbuilding and aircraft groups, coupled with a \$96m Midland Bank rights issue, left the index languishing 7.4 points down on Thursday. Midland, itself, was cut back 22p to 373p and a further 10p to 363p yesterday, while the other "Big Four" groups showed losses of 18p-21p.

Of the shipbuilders, Vickers was the worst hit, losing 13p to 185p at one stage, but Swan Hunter, Yarrow and Vosper were all knocked hard by the reaction.

Lucas Industries was a dim spot throughout the week losing a total of 18p to 252p. A

"bearish" brokers' circular, sparked off some midday selling, which spread with news of the profits revision, and by the end of the week there was talk of about 150,000 shares still overhanging the market.

Of the speculative stocks, Turner Manufacturing rallied 11p to 212p on revived hopes of a bid from Dana Corporation, while Henry Wigfall, after touching 258p, closed at 272p with the market expecting another suit in the wings. Present bidder, Corner Radio, vision improved 3p to 108p on hopes of a dividend boost in the formal offer document.

Alison Mitchell

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Rises	Falls	Comment
261p	98p	Brown, J.	32p to 280p		Optimistic full-year forecast
100p	40p	Daveport, Breweries	12p to 100p		Bid hopes
590p	410p	Fortnum & Mason	55p to 590p		Speculative buying in thin market
245p	120p	McLeod-Russell	15p to 240p		Sale of stake in Malaysia
85p	23p	Stocklake Hids	8p to 81p		Hopes of Rhodesian settlement
305p	185p	Alexanders	15p to 275p		Profit taking after figures
412p	195p	Hoover 'A'	20p to 345p		Lay-offs at factories
402p	245p	Midland Bank	37p to 383p		\$95m rights issue
322p	77p	Oil Explor	18p to 222p		Fears of dry well and fading bid hopes
182p	71p	Vosper	17p to 185p		Govt compensation disappointment

Trust performance

Income funds progress this year and the past three months under 2,000.9 rise from January 1, 1978: -0.3% since offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 11.4%; over past three years +108.6%.

Compiled by Money Management and Unitholder, Greystoke Lane, London, ECA 1N.

y F	69.6	27.22	ABN General	23.0	123.4
nal Cos	69.1	81.0	Hill Samuel	27.2	162.1
Capital	66.5	338.0	Ulster Bank General	22.3	129.0
lon	53.4	246.7	M & G General	22.0	114.3
and	50.7	22.7	Quaker F	21.2	104.4
ivate	47.9	127.1	Hill Samuel British	21.2	150.0
Cos	47.0		Reserves	21.1	129.4
ste	41.9	185.9	G and A	20.7	131.4
ish	41.4	185.9	General Equity	20.4	128.4
	40.3	161.3	Colenco	20.4	106.4
General	37.8	132.8	S & P UK Equity	20.3	126.6
eral	37.8		Arbuthnot Glants	20.1	94.4
	36.7	110.2	Ulster Capital	19.8	107.4
nson F	36.9	187.2	Carlisle F	19.8	87.5
tish	36.8	102.8	Equitas	19.7	125.4
M	36.5	143.9	Mineral Security Plus	19.6	146.1
Cap G	36.3	148.8	General Security	19.6	124.4
zy	36.2	125.7	Carlisle General	18.7	124.4
rust	35.1		Wickmoor	18.1	107.9
shares	34.1	141.8	Mutual Blue Chip	18.0	121.6
0	34.0	172.3	Target Thistle	17.9	121.6
ria	32	98.7	Invest	17.5	107.7
n	32.7	187.3	NPI Growth Accu F	17.4	152.8
oeral	32.4	156.3	Archway Fund M	17.3	107.7
nge	32.1	161.8	Ionian Growth F	17.3	85.9
n	31.9	127.3	British Earnings	17.1	129.9
h	31.4	170.9	Equity & Law	16.9	152.6
Gwth	30.6	20.7	British Life	16.5	117.1
h F	30.0	152.7	Royal Trust Trust	15.3	111.8
dent	29.0	159.3	Power Unit-Income	14.1	
	28.9	214.1	Invest	13.9	80.3
tee	28.2	82.5	National West Fphoto	13.7	
l	28.9	141.1	Nelstar	13.4	107.8
ourth	28.9	165.6	Robert Merlin	13.2	98.7
ical	28.6	206.7	Cobot F	13.0	98.5
deral	28.3	128.1	TSB Scottish	12.8	84.6
vestic	28.6	94.3	Oceanic General	10.8	50.3
ral	27.8	126.3	Lloyds Bank Second	8.9	104.6
	27.5	127.2	Piccadilly Accumulator	8.6	71.9
Inv	27.4	127.2	Publicly Trd Earnings	8.6	104.6
: Ass	26.9	133.9	National West Growth	1.9	81.1
: Inc	26.9	125.7	Bookingsham	1.4	68.3
	26.6	125.7	Marlborough	-4.4	5.6
			INCOME	A	2.6
Ind	26.5	124.1	Franklington Income	67.6	348.0
	26.3	134.1	GT Income	55.9	299.6
	25.8	86.9	M & G High Income	54.2	299.6
	25.6	124.7	Asbachner Inc Mthly	52.0	
u	25.6	135.4	Arbuthnot Extra Inc	50.1	145.8
omm	24.9	140.7			
rit	23.8	115.2			
	23.6				
og F	23.5	132.8			
ile	23.5	118.8			
ion	23.4	144.1			

Alfred Ham High Yld	48.9	207.9
M & G Extra Yield	48.0	257.2
Pacific High Inc	47.4	180.5
Schroder Income F	46.5	239.6
Henderson High Inc	46.5	225.2
Barclays High Inc	46.0	175.7
Key Income	44.9	157.1
Cheltenham High Inc	44.8	—
M & C Income	42.8	126.1
Oceanic High Income	42.8	126.1
Antony Gibbs Income	42.0	—
Barrington High Yld	41.9	162.1
Mutual High Yld	40.8	142.9
Unicorn Extra Income	40.5	176.7
Garmore Income	39.1	143.7
Tyndall Scottish Inc	38.5	—
Vanguard High Yld	38.5	—
S & P High Return	38.0	222.4
M & G Dividend	37.8	206.4
Capital Income	37.5	—
Carlisle High Yld	37.5	—
London Wall Ext Inc	36.8	181.2
Hill Samuel High Yld	36.5	—
Wickwood Dividend	36.2	—
Britannia Extra Inc	35.8	126.8
British Life Dividend	34.2	150.7
Albion Income	34.2	126.8
Rowan High Yld	33.4	165.2
Unicorn Income	31.6	171.9
Arbuthnot High Inc	31.2	124.1
Allied High Income	30.0	128.7
Bridge Income	29.7	129.0
Charterhouse Income	29.4	105.1
Britannia Inc & Growth	29.0	128.8
Piccadilly Extra Inc	28.9	88.8
S & P Income	28.3	137.5
Allied Equity Income	28.2	145.0
Creighton High Yld	27.6	147.7
Midland Drayton Inc	27.3	118.2
Lawsont High Yld	27.3	118.2
New Court Income	26.8	101.7
Hill Samuel Income	26.5	107.4
Seabrook Income	26.5	124.7
Camille Income	26.5	118.6
Target Extra Income	25.9	114.1
Tyndall Income	25.9	137.7
Trident Income	25.7	102.0
Trident Income	25.7	97.0
S & P Select Income	24.9	122.2
Nat & Com Income F	24.0	143.9
S & P Scotfields	22.6	132.3
Mutual Income	22.4	148.0
S & P High Yld	22.4	150.1
National West Ext Inc	21.0	136.4
National West Inc	20.8	135.1
Lloyds Bank Third	20.4	135.1
Abbey Income	19.6	145.5
Pearl Income	17.4	120.0

A: Change since January 27, 1977, offer to bid, income reinvested.

B: Change since January 23, 1975, offer to bid, income reinvested.

Both taken to January 26, 1978.

M: Trust valued monthly.

F: Trust valued every two weeks.

First public offer of National Westminster Universal Fund.

The new international unit trust.

A new unit trust

The Universal Fund is a new unit trust from National Westminster which will aim to provide maximum capital growth from high quality international shares.

The Managers of the Fund will be free to invest anywhere in the world but will concentrate their initial investment in the stronger world economies such as:

- * The USA with its all round strength
- * Canada with its plentiful natural resources
- * Germany and Japan with their high productivity and efficient industry.
- * Hong Kong the centre of Far East trade.

The Managers believe that the present is a good time to make an international investment and that this new Fund represents an ideal way of making it.

International opportunities

One advantage that international investment will offer is a widespread of risk, since the more your money is diversified across the world's economies the less likely you are to suffer from a set back in any one country at any one time.

At present there are a number of other tactical reasons for investing abroad.

The recent ending of the 25% surrender penalty on the dollar premium now means that overseas investment portfolios can be managed much more actively.

The strengthening of the pound in relation to other currencies has effectively reduced the price of many overseas securities in terms of sterling.

In the USA where initially it is planned to invest the major part of the Universal Fund, many experts believe the recent economic problems will be overcome. The economy



there retains its intrinsic basic strength backed as it is by a wealth of natural resources, a highly productive agricultural sector and the largest and most technically advanced industrial sector in the world.

So for the new investor the reduced value of the dollar and the fact that share prices in the USA are at their lowest levels for almost 3 years, means that the present is a good time to invest relatively cheaply in an economy with a great potential.

National Westminster expertise

The Universal Fund will be managed actively by a small panel of specialists from the National Westminster Group and Commercial Union. They are able to draw on National Westminster's world-wide resources and connections.

The major part of the Fund normally will be invested in overseas countries with 70% invested initially in the USA, 10% in Canada, 10% in the Far East and 10% invested in the UK concentrating on companies with a high overseas content.

The Managers have the option of investing overseas either through the dollar premium or through back-to-back loan arrangements. This decision will be taken in the light of current conditions.

Fixed price offer

As with any unit trust, investment in National Westminster Universal Fund should be regarded as long term.

Please remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

The minimum initial investment in the Fund is £500.

To purchase units at the launch price of 50p each, simply send your cheque with the application form below or take it to any branch of National Westminster Bank. Applications should be received by the Managers not later than 10 February 1978.

Additional information

Applications will not be acknowledged but certificates will be issued on or before 10 March 1978. Distributions of net income will be made half yearly on 18 June and 18 December.

The offer price of 50p per unit gives an estimated gross current yield of £3.00% p.a. (This is equivalent to a net yield of £1.98% p.a.). After the close of this offer units can always be bought at the prevailing offer price. The current offer and bid price and estimated gross yields are published daily in the press. If you wish, you can buy units from your own bank, stockbroker, solicitor or accountant. A commission of 1% is payable to approved agents.

The offer price of units includes a preliminary charge of 5%. Thereafter a half yearly charge of 18.75p plus VAT for each £100 value of the Fund is deducted from the gross income of the Fund to cover administration costs.

To sell units simply return your certificate(s) duly endorsed and you will receive the cash value in a few days.

The Management Company is National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

The directors are: R. Leigh-Pemberton DL (Chairman); R. W. Ansell, E. A. H. Dibbs, J. F. G. Emms, P. J. Jacobs, J. H. Morton, J. M. F. Padavan, Sir Francis Sandilands CBE, J. H. Webb, P. W. Wilkinson.

National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Ltd is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

The Trustee is Royal Exchange Assurance. This is a "wider range" trustee investment.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Offer of units at 50.0p each.

Estimated gross current yield £3.00% p.a. (This is equivalent to a net yield of £1.98% p.a.)
Send to: National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, 161 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EU.
Telephone enquiries: 01-805 0080 ext. 3055



I/We wish to invest (minimum initial investment £500) in National Westminster Universal Fund Units at the fixed offer price of 50.0p per unit.

I/We enclose my/our remittance, payable to National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited. (Other cheques 10 February 1978)

Surname: Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Full first name(s) _____

Address _____

I/We declare that I/we are not resident outside the Scheduled Territories (as defined in the Bank of England notice ECT) and that I/we are not acquiring the units as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside these territories (if you are unable to make this declaration it should be deleted and the form signed through your bank, stockbroker or solicitor). I am/We are over the age of 18.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited registered in England. No. 907310.
Registered Office: 41 Lombard Street, London EC3N 2EP

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bullish note turns downward trend

The lunch-time release of the eagerly awaited interim statement from index stock John Brown was all it needed to turn the downward trend of the stock market, evident over the past few days.

With the chairman confidently forecasting doubled profits at the year-end the FT Index, 3.5 off at one point,

The bears are starting to lighten on Imperial Group now 73p ahead of figures for the year to last October due soon. They talk of profits more or less marking time with the stings coming in a gloomy statement. What with rising oil prices against new smoking material, anti smoking campaigns, the new Common Market way of taxing cigarettes and a disappointing Courage, Imps needs a big diversification to redress growth. Pending that, the shares still have a yield.

finished the day with a gain of 1.7 at 477.5, showing a net fall for the week of 10.1.

On the John Brown pitch there were some good bargains struck both in the old account and new time trading and some dealers are talking of the share breaking the magical £3 barrier early next week.

Elsewhere the restraining influence of Midland Bank's 196m rights issue and nervousness in front of President Carter's speech on Monday kept trading on a low key.

Gilt opened uncertainly climbing slightly throughout the day. "Longs" ended three-eighths to a half above overnight levels while the shorter end, a sustained rally in after

hours, hoisted many stocks by a quarter to three-eighths. Leading industrials lacked a decisive trend. ICI at 345p, Glaxo at 535p, Courtaulds at 123p, Beecham at 650p, and Tubes at 388p were all unchanged on the day and many have drifted only a penny or two either way of Monday's opening prices.

Defensive, however, lost 7p to 380p while GEC at 267p and Metal Box at 306p were trimmed back slightly. GKN added 2p to 265p.

Following news of the sale of a South African subsidiary and also of Tuesday's quarterly profit figures, Reed International lost 4p to 134p while BATS, reporting the same day, shed 2p to 280p.

The shipbuilder and aviation groups affected by Government nationalization, compensation were mixed. Swan Hunter at 146p and Yarrow at 275p showed further losses of 2p and 5p while Hawker Siddeley firmed 2p to 190p. Vickers at 187p and Vötsch at 165p held steady on the day.

Banks, too, were undecided. Midland continued on down, losing 10p to 363p, as did

Barclays where speculation on a rights issue trimmed them 5p to 317p. Lloyds held steady at 267p and National Westminster gained 3p to 270p.

Renewed worries of Government sanctions weakened Sun Alliance 4p to 563p while other insurances to slide a few pence included Royal at 400p, General Accident at 222p and Guardian at 240p.

News that Distillers is to add 25p a bottle to some of its whiskies topped up the shares 1p to 170p, while the liquidation decision at St Kitts Sugar pushed the price 15p better to 175p.

End of account profit-taking left Thomson Corporation 12p lower at 639p and British Sugar 5p down at 475p.

After a good run earlier in the week the motor distributor sector also succumbed to profit-taking trimming a penny or two off T. Cowie at 41p, Appleyard at 95p, H. & J. Quick at 45p and Price & Clark at 52p.

Of the companies reporting, satisfactory nine-month profits added 3p to Ferguson Industrial at 103p, while Henderson-Kenton, with disappointing results, went 7p down to 73p.

Fresh falls on Wall Street left BP 2p off at 796p, while Oil Exploration slipped 8p to 222p.

United Scientific, which has been bobbing about throughout the account, added 13p to 278p on "bear" closing while Myson

The market in Davenport's Brewery (Holdings), where the board can probably call on the support of 48 per cent of the shares, was very firm yesterday at 100p. Given the strength of the rise over the past fortnight something should be about to break, but a sharp fall in Northern Woods, which purports to make a bid, has finally denied its interest.

Group fell back a penny to 66p on profit-taking.

Equity turnover on January 26 was £83,839m (14,531 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to John Brown, ICI, Rank, Organisation, BP, Marks & Spencer, Talbot, GUS "A", Shell, Midland Bank, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Reed Int. Town & City, Davenport Breweries, Vinten Group, and S. A. Land.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Per	Year's
Int or Fin	(£m)	(£m)	per share	pence	date	total
J. Brown (I)	13,701(12.26)	0.33(0.18)	3.7(2.2)	6.06(4)	6/4	14(13)
CGS Ridges (F)	1,601(1.43)	0.10(0.13)	1.0(0.5)	1.02(0.32)	6/3	1.4(1.3)
Wm Cook (I)	2,781(2.20)	0.47(0.38)	1.55(1.26)	0.26(0.23)	28/4	—
Excubitor Jew (I)	30,46(22.74)	1.22(0.79)	—	—	—	—
Ferguson Ind (I)	20,59(16.56)	0.24(0.18)	124(98)	50(50)	28/3	—
Ed Filds of SA (I)	9,45(8.63)	0.22(0.43)	1.1(1.4)	1.0(1.4)	1/3	14(13.0)
JoM Steam (F)	12,50(7.95)	0.68(0.21)	18.46(9.39)	2.75(2.75)	4/0(1.75)	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown gross. Figures are for nine months to Nov 30, B and C cents.

Fifth of Customagic equity sold

It looks as though some new blood is being infused into Customagic Manufacturing, the Manchester-based stretch covers which slumped to pre-tax profits of £315,000 to losses of £151,000 in the year to April 30, 1977.

Having jointly bought a fifth of the equity, Messrs Michael Ashcroft and Allan Cloggie have joined the board. Mr Ashcroft is now deputy chairman and Mr Cloggie managing director. The shares were bought through companies in which they have an interest.

No sale of any shares held by Messrs Sidney Terry or Bernard Terry has been made. Mr Sidney Terry has resigned from the board and Mr Bernard Terry will not seek re-election at the annual meeting. Mr Andrew Terry, the son of Mr Bernard Terry, will continue as a director and full-time executive.

Mr Gerry Truman and Mr Ian Phillips have both relinquished their non-executive directorships. Sir Cecil Burney is chairman.

Reed Int sells two trade magazines

Bean Brothers is to buy from IPC Business Press, a subsidiary of Reed International, the trade publications *Kecchi* Chemist and *Kecchi* Book price guide for a consideration of £240,000 in cash. Reed recently sold its 62 per cent stake in the South African packaging company Reed Nam-pak, only a few weeks after increasing its stake with the purchase of the further 2.5m shares for about £8.5m. Reed's disposals so far in the current year amount to about £30m.

London Australia Inv broadside

The board of London Australia Investment Co, which is based in Sydney, but has a London quango, has written to shareholders strongly advising them to reject the offer from Colophon Pty. The terms are \$A1.30 per stock unit, the sterling equivalent (including the dollar premium) of this price on January 18 was 100p.

Gold Fields of South Africa

In the half-year to December 31, pre-tax profits of Gold Fields of South Africa, which is an associate of Consolidated Gold Fields, pushed up its pre-tax profits from £16.5m to £20.9m (about £12m). In the whole of the previous 12 months, Gold Fields made £22.1m pre-tax.

Third-quarter boost for Ferguson Ind

In the nine months to November 30, Cumbria-based Ferguson Industrial Holdings made more profit than in the whole of the preceding year. On a pre-tax basis, they rose by 55 per cent to £12.2m, against the £1.03m for the year to February 28, 1977. Sales were 20 per cent up at £30.46m, almost equalling 1976-77's £31.46m. The board explains that the third quarter was a record.

The only difference in the constitution of the group over the 12 months is that Hindson Prior was treated as a subsidiary for the third quarter, while it was an associate last year and for the first half of this year. The final quarter is going well; all divisions are presently up to targets and the final outcome for the year should be "good". Ferguson takes in hauliers' merchants, engineers' merchants, engineering and printing.

John Brown's buoyant forecast on way to profits plateau

By Nicholas Hirst

John Brown's shares jumped 32p to 280p yesterday on a forecast of doubled profits for the year to March from £10.9m to at least £22m; a pleasing end to the year for the 26 years old chairman. He is resigning at the annual meeting (aged 65) to be replaced by Mr John Mayhew-Sanders who will continue as chief executive.

But on his own admission, after two years of spectacular growth, John Brown is approaching a profits plateau. On less than a third of the capital employed, two divisions, Constructors John Brown and John Brown Engineering, are producing two thirds of the profit. The returns from which are a steady state, nothing like so good and is unlikely to improve sharply next year, while John Brown Plastics Machinery is only just creeping back into the black.

Cautious accounting and prudent contract taking has paid off for Constructors but like other plant contractors it is switching back to the increased risk business of fixed-price



Lord Abercromby, chairman of John Brown.

higher but growth will be coming more from increased margins than from increased volume of business, which was at a record level last year. On the gas turbine side a rising group is likely to reach at margins rather than prevent the winning of contracts, but the ability to increase profits next year will be small, and downturn looks more likely.

The group wants to balance its own performance, both of which are unlikely to grow quite so brightly next year, with other high earners. Machine tools could provide one. Mr Mayhew-Sanders has proved that the once troubled Constructors could be a star and Wickham could be the same, but the investment planned for the next 18 months will take some time to come through. On a minimal tax charge earnings will reach 100p this year, dwarfing the 13.2p gross equivalent dividend which was a 4.7 per cent in a brake on the shares when the best growth looks to be over, but restraint will not be with us for ever.

Assoc Eng aim to make up leeway

By Ashley Drucker

Having managed to steer clear of the unwelcome surprises which have plagued the engineering sector recently, Associated Engineering looks to profits for the present term to end-September next showing a "satisfactory" increase on the £32.5m pre-tax for last year. In this context, Mr John Ferguson, chairman of this engine components group, told the annual meeting that uncertainties made it difficult to predict the likely outcome more precisely. Though most wage negotiations have been settled within the group, a major stoppage during the negotiations in one of its large divisions cut sales and profits in November and December.

However, all factories are now working normally and he hopes that much of the leeway will be recovered during the coming months. Overall, the prospects for the year ahead are for "some growth over and above the rate of inflation, particularly in the machine tools division, and replacement parts division." Much of course will inevitably depend on the level of demand, the degree of disruption in industry and the country in general, besides the Government's economic and monetary policies.

FFI development let

By Ray Maughan

The Property Services Agency has taken 8,000 sq ft of office space in the new Kiln House development in Pottery, Norwich.

Developed by Anglia Commercial Properties, a subsidiary of Finance for Industry, the offices will be occupied by the Health & Safety Executive. The building provides a total of 78,000 sq ft of fully air-conditioned accommodation on six floors of two interconnecting wings.

The remaining space is available, through the joint letting agents Richard Ellis and Francis Roney, at an asking rent of £145,000 which is equivalent to just over £2 per sq ft.

McDonnell Douglas reports in style

International

1977 was 61,577 compared with 58,767 in 1976, the first year-end to year-end increase in employment in 10 years.

Thyssen pays less Duisburg — Thyssen, the largest West German steel group reports that its super-heavy board cut its dividend to DM7.50 per share from DM7.75 per share before. Thyssen had announced in November that it was planning the cut. The group also said that its super-heavy board had decided to recommend a cut in the dividend for 1977 to DM8.50 from DM9.00.

Domestic shareholders will receive an additional tax credit of DM4.78 per share, however, as a result of the corporate tax reform eliminating double taxation of dividends. The payout for them will rise to 13.28 marks as a result.

Last November, Herr Gert Becker, Board Chairman, told reporters that 1976/77 earnings would not be worse than in the year before. Then the net profit was DM42m although a cash dividend cut was probable.

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A Monk and St Piran in clash over board post

By Michael Clark

Signs of a rift appeared yesterday between civil engineer A. Monk, and one of its shareholders, St Piran, which holds 20.53 per cent of the ordinary shares in Monk.

St Piran, a tin mining and property development group with interests in the United Kingdom and Malaysia, has requested that a named director of Monk be appointed to the board. But after considering the request the Monk board decided unanimously that the reasons offered by Piran in support of this proposal did not justify the making of such an appointment and further, did not consider that such an appointment was in the interests of the company generally. It would appear that to the past it has been Monk's policy to appoint long serving employees as directors.

Only last month St Piran bought a further 1.1 million ordinary shares in Monk, taking its total to 2.06 million.

In October last St Piran floated off 35 per cent of its subsidiary South Crofty with an offer for sale in raise £2.6m. It was the proceeds from this which had given Piran the cash to buy the extra shares in Monk. However, in spite of rumours in the City, the directors of St Piran have denied that they intended to bid for the remainder of the Monk capital. Among other shareholders in Monk are Norwich Union with a 6.3 per cent stake and Prudential with 5.6 per cent.

At the same time Monk has agreed in principle with Mr G. Davies of New West Glamorgan to buy for cash the whole of the share capital of DMJ, Neeth Plant and Gerwyn Davies & Sons. It is expected that the contract of purchase will be completed within the next two weeks.

Monk recently reported a rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to August 31, from £519,000 to £567,000 and in doing so forecast that the group's total Kingdom profits for the full year will not be less than £3.5m. This compares with the previous year's figure of £2.5m.

Henderson-Kenton warning

By Victor Felstead

Almost halved interim profits and a warning on the full-time figures were released yesterday by Henderson-Kenton, the retail furniture group. In spite of turnover expanding by 9 per cent to £9.45m in the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits slumped from £489,000 to £252,000.

The board, headed by Mr David Hyman, explains that the higher turnover was achieved "despite the most adverse trading conditions for many years". However, the bigger sales were not sufficient to offset heavier costs. A poor June quarter was mainly to blame for the profit fall. But since that quarter, improvements in performance have been achieved.

The full year's result is likely to be "appreciably lower" than last year's record £1.4m pre-tax. But the January sales were "excellent", figures for the four weeks since Christmas substantially exceeding 1977.

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Commodities

By Michael Clark

COPPER was steady after a morning of gains. The London market for the metal was 100.00 for the month, 100.00 for the quarter, 100.00 for the year, 100.00 for the five years, 100.00 for the ten years, 100.00 for the 20 years, 100.00 for the 50 years, 100.00 for the 100 years, 100.00 for the 200 years, 100.00 for the 500 years, 100.00 for the 1000 years, 100.00 for the 2000 years, 100.00 for the 5000 years, 100.00 for the 10000 years, 100.00 for the 20000 years, 100.00 for the 50000 years, 100.00 for the 100000 years, 100.00 for the 200000 years, 100.00 for the 500000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 20000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 50000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 100000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 200000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 500000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 1000000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 2000000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 5000000000000000000000000000000000 years, 100.00 for the 10000000000000000000000000000000000 years,

Rainfall shows that England and Wales had a typical year for weather

By Martin Gamble
The Meteorological Office.

At the extremes of the two preceding years, the prolonged drought of 1975-76 and the extremely wet September and October of 1976 over England and Wales, the rainfall of 1977 was much more than of a "typical" year. Totals for the year were close to the long-period average—over Britain about 28 inches. There were marked departures from averages at individual months and over some particular districts and groups of months. The annual total for Northern Ireland was 6 per cent less than average.

The first four months of the year were generally wet over the country as a whole, February (April) being the month which exceeded the long-term average. But after the previous wet autumn, meant that water supply authorities faced the coming summer drought of 1977 was much more serious than in 1976. It was the wettest February since 1950 over England and Wales, and since 1923 over Northern Ireland. More seriously, the seven months from September 1976 to March 1977 was the driest such period since the 1920s; year series beginning in 1777 for England and Wales as a whole (September, 1876 to March, 1877, was drier).

The spring months, April-May, were rather dry over England but the summer was marred by a very wet June and early July. Across over southern England. Late winter and spring (February to April) were the driest over Scotland it was the third wettest such period in a 110-year series (February to April in 1876 and 1977 were the driest). In the third wettest such period in a 79-year series over Northern Ireland (1940 and 1968 were wetter).

The summer four months (May to August) were drier in northern Britain than in the south, particularly so in Northern Ireland, where the driest series of months since 1877 into October; it was the fourth driest May to September over Northern Ireland in the long series (June and July in 1903 and 1953 were drier). July was a dry month over practically the whole of the United Kingdom, especially in England and Wales, where there was a tenth of the monthly average was recorded in the south Midlands and north-east England. It was exceptionally wet over Scotland, where it was the fifth wettest such period in the series (the most recent wetter summer occurred in 1954).

The map, based on data so far to hand, shows the distribution of rainfall over the country, with the average. For the first time, averages for the new standard period, 1941-70, replace those for 1916-50 as a basis for the maps and the tables. The averages for 1941-70, for the counties as a whole, differ little from those for 1916-50, as the following table shows:

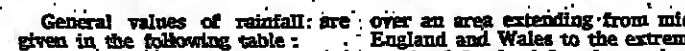
Average annual rainfall 1916-1950 1941-1970	mm	mm
England	1257	1257
Wales	852	852
Scotland	1337	1336
England & Wales	904	912
Northern Ireland	1419	1391
Northern Ireland	1031	1095

Naturally, monthly averages show considerable variations, the most marked departures for the whole of the Kingdom as a whole being increases of about 8 per cent in June, August and September in the more recent series of months (1903 and 1953 were about 8 per cent in January and August). In general, the six summer months were rather wetter in the recent series compared with those of 1916-50, and the winter rather drier. The sense of the variation is mostly favourable to agriculture but less so for the growing season.

Among the largest and smallest totals recorded in 1977 were 4,586mm at Lytsway, in Snowdonia, and 429mm at Southey, in Dorset.

Annual totals for representative stations are given below in millimetres and as a percentage of annual average:

Station	mm	Per cent of average
Londan (St James's)	638	104
Margate	524	91
Worthing	781	110
Birmingham	1034	104
Cambridge	640	87
Plymouth	1034	104
London (Heathrow)	1034	114
Birmingham	782	101
Cardiff	724	101
Dundee	634	93
Hull	634	93
Doncaster	634	93
Cardiff	893	84
Cardiff Bay	893	84
Belfast	1010	89
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Glasgow	1141	109
Ipswich (Eastbury)	1295	101
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Cardiff	724	101
Dundee	634	93
Hull	634	93
Doncaster	634	93
Cardiff	893	84
Cardiff Bay	893	84
Belfast	1010	89
Belfast	1010	89
Belfast	1010	89
Belfast	1010	89
Glasgow	1141	109
Ipswich (Eastbury)	1295	101
London (Heathrow)	1034	114
Birmingham	782	101
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Dundee	634	93
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Doncaster	634</	



fell in the last week but amount were not generally great except on the 22nd and 24th, when a heavy precipitation including snow, fell. The 22nd to 24th, when a frost became almost stationary near the coast, was the only period when the weather was interrupted by much colder spell on the 11th to 13th, when widespread snow fell on higher ground. It was the wettest but not the driest period.

The first general dry spell of the year was experienced from March 22 to 9th over much of England, and from March 23 to 10th over eastern England; weather in Scotland was more unsettled. The period from the 10th to 23rd was generally dry, but with a sharp drop from mild to colder weather on the 19th. Thunderstorms occurred in southern Britain on the 26th. Some rain was locally experienced widely from the 26th to 29th, but the 30th was one of the wettest.

The period from mid-June to mid-August, although not entirely rainless, was the driest and most settled period of the year over the whole of the country, with only 50mm fell over the two countries, about a third of the average for the period. Scotland was more generally drier than England, but fell again from August 2nd to 4th, but the subsequent dry period extended up to August 23rd over the country.

Isolated thunderstorms occurred in the south on 6th, 8th, 11th and 12th. On the 8th, 20mm was re-

MONTHLY RAINFALL						
	England and Wales		Scotland		N. Ireland	
	mm	%	mm	%	mm	%
January	101	137	127	83	104	100
February	130	212	132	132	255	203
March	113	164	140	87	117	117
April	73	57	136	126	74	109
May	78	62	78	74	28	40
June	85	139	78	69	53	67
July	114	133	63	63	49	63
August	102	113	110	25	98	85
September	101	101	101	101	89	89
October	84	77	178	118	105	88
November	104	107	207	146	117	115
December	95	95	95	95	95	95

The thorough and brilliant excavation in foul conditions by Mr David Neal and Dr Geoffrey Watnwright, head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, has revealed that the Roman excavation unit, is using 30 diggers or a subsistence wage of £20 a week. It will take about another three months before they can say how far it has found evidence of considerable early Roman settlement outside the outskirts of Magovianum.

It was also surprising to find a settlement : a shanty town rather than a lost legionary fortress. It is nevertheless interesting and important in helping to explain the map to fill in these blank pages of our history.

The site looks like the Somme in 1916, with mountains of mud and sand rising above the still brown water. The trenches have uncovered ribbon development of the first century along Watling Street, extending for about half a mile west of Magovianum.

There is a puzzle here, because the drainage gullies marking agricultural plots 20 metres wide are aligned diagonally with Watling Street. Their alignment may be explained if some of the soil came from Watling Street, and so to a different orientation.

Closer to the town there were concentrations of pottery, iron furnaces and ovens, too large for baking bread. They were probably used by blacksmiths and workers in metal industries, such as tanning, whose slag is being found on a series of matted paths. There is also a large cobbled floor of the flint.

To the north of the town the trenches have found a sharply cambered road, presumably leading to Ilchester (near Exeter). It was made of stone blocks of the north gate. On either side of that road there is the characteristic black soil that indicates ribbon development. There is also a small brick fire mosaic, which is curious, but it is prob-

ably only a drainage ditch at the muddy lower end.

The site has so far yielded boxes of pottery and bones, leather, glass, suggesting that some of it may have come from rubbish dumps outside the town and about eighty coins have been found, suggesting a busy market. Few stone foundations of large structures have been found, nor do brooches or other military artefacts, although a lot of pottery material is sling-shoot.

The evidence so far is that there was considerable civilian settlement outside the Roman mural to the west and north of the first century onwards.

The walls were poor, mainly agricultural, with no elaborate buildings; not the Fourteenth Legion's camp, though the fact that they have left no trace behind... the Roman strata could have found near by a better fort than at the bottom of a moraine.

Latest wills

Mr Ernest Philip Dimbleby, Oswestry, Flintshire; Humberside, £77,390 net. H. left £10,000, £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

Mr Donald William Keller, Redbridge, London, left £33,000 net. He left all of his property equally between the Redbridge branch of the Multiple Society, the Society, the Cheshire Homes, the National Society for Cancer Research, and the British Heart Foundation.

Mr Leonard Rodney Dawson, Tisbury, Wiltshire, £10,000 net. £3,553, 5s. 10d. to his wife, the balance to his children.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed):

Burkitt, Dr. Lieutenant-Colonel, £10,000 net. £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

Bockingham, Mr Charles Grev D., £10,000 net. £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

Christmas, Mr Charles Grev D., £10,000 net. £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

Can, of Southsea, £113,000 net. £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

Wootton, Mr Joseph William, £10,000 net. £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter, £10,000 to his son.

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to understand and interpret accounting

tion.

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the managing director within 6 years and

nt must be prepared to adapt to changing

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The word "encyclopedia" is rarely used nowadays and not merely because many find it difficult to spell, even since the dipthong was dropped, but because so many of the selling methods for such publications were suspect. Reader's Digest, which sells through traditional booksellers and by respectable direct mail, realized that the vanishing encyclopedia left a gap in the home but not such a big gap as all those many far volumes had left. For, when Reader's Digest approached the task they decided to do some research and discovered that most people who had bought the many volumes actually glanced at or absorbed less than 10 per cent of the data they contained.

Furthermore, the research brought out what most people want to know or to look up and that the majority wanted to be able to refer to their information under a subject heading rather than an alphabetical heading.

So The Library of Modern Knowledge was conceived, compiled and finally published last Monday. I have spent a lot of time that should have been dedicated to other things going through the three volumes and I find I agree with the categorization under subject headings. I mean, it makes sense that, when you start looking at a subject, you find yourself reading on or back and absorbing interlinking information which makes the original foray into the volume twice or three times as interest-

ing. An encyclopedia is not, after all, a teaching book. It is a book of reference, a book which should give you enough information to satisfy your immediate query but which more or less tells you that you do not want to follow through. And that, in a busy life, is a great thing to know—what not to do.

However, this popular concept departs from the purist's definition of the word, hence also the different title of the Reader's Digest book which describes the contents admirably. It has been produced entirely in Britain although overseas companies are already ordering it. The British market is expected to account for at least three quarters of the initial print order and will be served promptly, so cease worrying.

The fact that you do get only three volumes manoeuvrable and not too heavy for the young seeker after knowledge to lift, is very much a plus in my book. After all, it adds up to something like a score of novels or other books, for which you would pay at least £80, so this Library of Modern Knowledge is super value at £29.95. The price was too incredible and I thought that they must literally have sweated the authors, starved them and whipped them into work. But the authors I met were on good and happy terms with their taskmasters, looked well fed and were undoubtedly satisfied with the deference to their toil and academic qualifications. It turned out that the price is low because other English-speaking countries in the

Reader's Digest international network have come in and sell, thus enabling order of some 300,000 which will help to do investment to far of \$ by the British company has spent nearly 100 technical experts, 70 editors, designers, researchers and other nothing of the te checked the facts.

The three volumes are all but essential (line of which I approve, editing and layout are fully done, giving the great clarity and yet miserly use of space, going into all the tech and the backroom work commend it as having brilliantly and efficient

Volume I is concerned with The World of Nature: with The Human World. Volume 3 with The World. Normally my would have been for humans but I found absorbed with the about which I know little, like computers and the sky and earth's. I found I was actually it. It should be at a seller now and it is at Reader's Digest's or shop in the north-east, London's Berkeley St. you are stymied, and one can be in the box world game order for Reader's Digest, 7-10 Old London EC9 9AA. This thing to give the who, as being useful for schoolwork and just gr

Full marks for the St John SOS Talisman "locket" that holds all the information about the wearer's blood group, allergies, and other medical history in case of accident or similar emergency. A pity they could not have had a more attractive or simpler, unisex design but you cannot have everything. The idea is right so, for when they offer, are the prices—£6.95 for the chromium-plated pendant; £9.95 for a gold-plated version; £7.95 for a man's or a lady's chromium-plated bracelet with

chain bracelet that will stand up to hard wear in both cases. The prices include postage etc and they will accept Access or Barclaycard at the office, St John SOS Talisman, PO Box 999, Kettering, Northants. Leaflets are available and please do not forget to get them for the children. After all, they do not have to be a doctor's order. While applauding the scheme thoroughly, let me remind readers of MedicAlert, of which I wrote last April. MedicAlert is a non-profit-making charity foundation which also sells

"non-jewelry" bracelet necklaces bearing flat plates with brief note reverse like "diabetic allergic to penicillin" forth. However, the who has all of his or her fully filed at MedicAlert quarters which is known contacted by most hosp doctors—the telephone is on the identity tag doubly sure. Life is £4.85 including the bracelet or necklace, from 9 Hanover Street W1R 9HF.



The lady in the shawl bought it at the Russian Shop, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7EP.

She was right since she is extremely pleased with it. I bought one three years ago and must criticize them only by telling them that their shawls last too long because mine has had plenty of wear by day and night, to say nothing of being borrowed by many a guest, daughter, grand-daughter et alia. It still looks good.

My shawl was, as I recall, around £7 which gives some idea of how long I have had it. The price now is £18.90 for the cream background, but the shawl is bigger, of better quality and of rather more universally-accepted patterns. They are all floral and fringed on black or cream backgrounds and the colours vary, although they are all 150 cms square (roughly 60 inches, that is). The black version is a little more at £22.80 and is, I think worth it.

The colours are best described as European—hardly pastel but rather brilliant. I wear mine most often to parties, formal or otherwise, and it is always admired. The best thing about these shawls is that being of fine, pure worsted wool, they do not slip and they are warm to cuddle around oneself in the car. They are much less bother than coats or capes, and you can avoid the cloakroom queue by leaving the fine, lightweight shawl over your arm or chair.

There are also woollen kerchiefs for the shoulders, hair or head-covering and these also do not slip. About 36 inches square, they cost from £5.29 to £8.85 with or without the fringe (plus 25p postage). Similar colourings but with a floral print on black or cream grounds, or a paisley print on a blue ground. Generous in size, they can be draped into various types of turban.

Toys, little animals, dominoes that look very folksy because they still happen to be in wood, a zither for the musical young which is a nice change from guitars and skateboards, and an adorable little take apart house of wooden pieces which can be made up into 20 different styles of wooden house by young fingers because the pieces interlock—all these are among many items that will take your fancy if you plan to shop for birthdays, Easter, next Christmas or just for your own pleasure. For no reason other than I fancy it, I am tempted by a spinning wheel, a practical working model.

Then, because my daughter has decided to start a new family and is due to have a son in March, I was drawn to the nesting eggs and dolls. Of course it is as much for me as for her to get used to the idea. Besides, he did run the risk of coming into this world to be in a bedroom bedecked by Laura Ashley fabrics on walls and windows and he will presumably now be a little less florally bowed. His rather mature neo-age sister thinks she will be the world's most enthusiastic babysitter. I wonder—she is in a lot now while working for O-levels but after next June? I suspect my daughter and her husband will be their own babysitters but they seem to be over the moon about the prospect. I am just curious, after being so used to teenage grandchildren. But what a digression so please do not let it distract you from the Russian Shop.

It was in Chiswick, opposite Arlington Park and easy parking, that I first discovered Herald, about which everybody who lives near one should know more. Herald is the curtain shop that makes up curtains free. No, there is no trick like higher prices for the fabrics, which are competitive with any other furnishing fabric shop anywhere. Nor are there any other hidden charges or commitments to further purchases by means of vouchers. Nothing like that at all. The ability to give this service lies in forethought and efficiency.

The old curtain fabrics shop was inefficient. Men or girls with some brute force had to be employed to haul up and down from floor to high shelves and back again, and to the unnecessarily-long measuring counters which wasted valuable space. Customers had to ask for every possible variation of their potential choice left with piles of rollers or rolls were rather unhelpful, so the shops were over-stuffed—if they could get staff at all as the hearing had become unpopular in recent years.

Then there was all the wastage. The customers and assistants together no often managed to work out the repeats of the pattern quite wrongly so that either the customer overbought the yardage or the shop was left with piles of pile of remnants which look terrible anyway, to say nothing of the piling-up of costs. Extra storage space was essential if the shop tried to stock a goodly choice and that again was a waste of display and potential selling space.

Herald set out to cure all the ills. No fabric at all is in stock in any of their shops but well displayed, good-size lengths made up as curtains so that you can see exactly how they will look when hung at your windows. The racks are designed so that customers can wander at will and staff are trained not to press their attentions unless wanted, although they are also taught to notice when a customer might need advice. The racks are honey-beige and brown colour scheme is welcoming without interfering with the curtain materials and the girls look pleasant in their beige sweaters and brown skirts.

Every display length is duly numbered, coded and all so that buying and cutting are simple—the customer gives the size and the girl refers to her printed tables. The order goes to the Tottenham factory where the making-up is done within the specified time—which is usually three weeks but, when it is and it is almost never longer, the firm works on the dying policy of promises kept. With everything worked out by experts, the whole thing is pretty foolproof and there is no waste of space, fabric, time or energy. Any fabric that out of stock is removed until the factory has a big stock piled up again. I noticed only one colourway of a familiar pattern and asked about the other colours, and was delighted to get the answer that it was unfair to show customers what they cannot get and that they would be kept hidden while the manufacturer was being nagged.

Shops were opened along motorways starting with the M4—branches now stretch to Bristol and Cardiff and are beginning to spread down to the South Coast and up the M1, the intention being to cater for most of Britain in time, but now serving mainly

the south apart from that M4 string. The object of such organized openings was to streamline distribution and it worked out just like that.

The result was not only shops with wide-open, welcoming entrances but with a tidy atmosphere, the raggedy Cinderella image all blown away, a specialist shop with all the advantages of old-fashioned smallness and modern methods—the best of them. The major bonus was that the management in the Combined English Stores group found they were saving costs to a far greater extent than even they had envisaged besides selling a much greater volume of fabric. So the customer won part of the massive savings in margins and gets the free making-up which in itself was a cost-saving operation. The making-up includes linings for those who want them and fabrics that need them and, further bonus, a free make-up service on matched bedspreads if you buy the required yardage.

Herald does also stock some of the accessories for those who want to make their own curtains in the face of all this largesse. Poles and rings, now back with the Victorian look, are there. So too are other soft furnishings like sheets and duvet covers and duvets. But let me tell you about the sheets before going on. Herald's people did not like the harshness of most polyester cottons, favouring the feel and finish of the softer American Percale or the Italian sheets. So they got their own-label bed linen made in Italy—the finish not being possible in this country, although Herald tries to buy British.

I like that, as I also like their attitude to duvets. Having found customers wanting the duck down more and more and the synthetics rather less, they are specialising in feather and down at £19.95 for single and £26.95 for double sizes, which is value in any language. But, and it is an important but, the duvets are made with "walls" of fabric between the channels as distinct from the many duvets made by merely stitching one sheet of flat fabric to another. The fabric "walls" mean that each compartment can expand with warmth and movement to allow the down to swell and to stay soft, airy and warm, to say nothing of duvets being more durable when made like this.

There are gift lines too—the apron and matching casserole mitts are of very good design and reasonable at under £4. The Old Bleach tea-cosies have removable covers with pots depicted on them and, while the embroidered table mat sets are not to my taste, involving more time than I have, I was enchanted by the imported hand-embroidered pillow cases which have either the time or a less-than-murderous laundry.

I loved the return of seersucker and bought seersucker table-napkins at 49p each for a good size, in mainly green or mainly blue when I was there. I do not like, though sometimes resort to paper table napkins, and seersucker is that wonderful, fully-good-tempered easy-care material of my youth, the non-iron cotton—pure cotton at that—we welcomed when there were no other easy-care materials. I never cared at all if the children spilled on tables or jumped on beds because seersucker took it all in good heart. Better still, the stuff was not rationed during the early days of fabric-rationing, for some reason I never fathomed but hardly queried because it meant I could curtain the whole of the house I

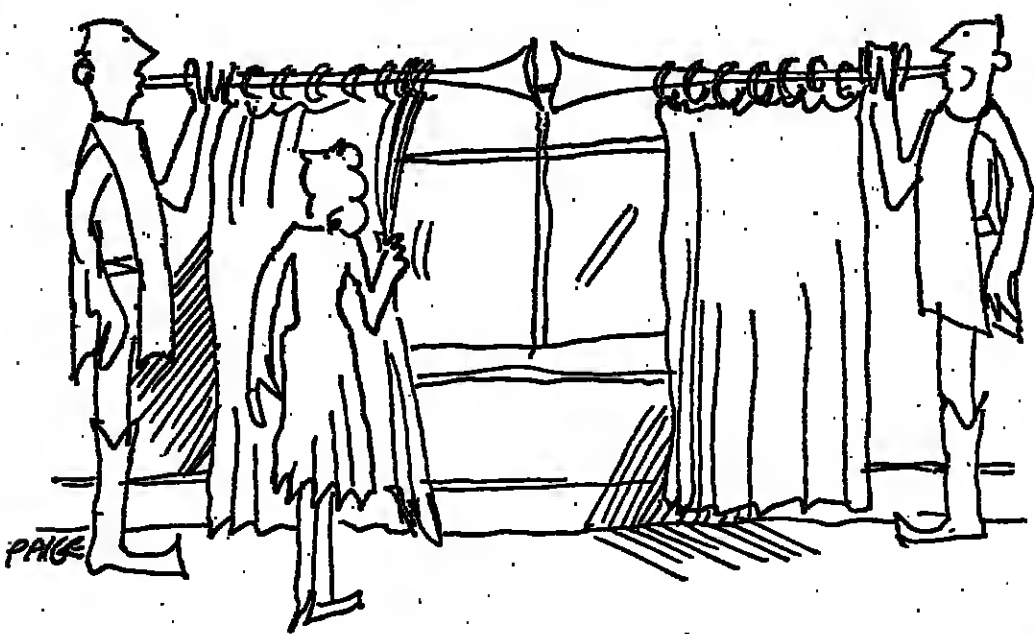
had recently acquired in London for a deposit of £150. Imagine it—three bedrooms, huge garden with orchard, two living rooms, kitchen, bathroom and all for £750—with a big garage and shed as well. You could not get the garage for that now.

I avoid lace or net curtains when and where I can, although one often cannot. But I must confess that Herald does some interesting things. They have some rather unusual curtain styles that look like those of many French cafes, referred to by them as their Victoria-and-Alberts. These are usually heavy nets with ornate borders hung to drape the full length at the sides, then short in the centre like either a peacock or a short curtain over a theatre proscenium. The curtained space is for the flower pots or jardinières that adorn so many windowsills and, since the plants are screens in themselves but want the light, these styles solve the problem of whether to bang the curtains behind the plants or before them, concealing them from inmates or from passers-by.

The patterns are a masterpiece of compromise and I must hardly add that I mean that in the most complimentary manner, with no hint of condescension. Intended as it is, it is obviously attacking that impossible task of trying to be most things to most people and succeeding rather well. Neither the tasteful nor the rather ghastly intrude upon each other and, after all, what is ghastly to me may be the dream curtain to my neighbour. What I do commend is the ability to sell them side by side while hoping that some of the worse patterns do eventually die a natural death from lack of demand.

There are William Morris type patterns alongside cottage roses and dainty attic curtains. Yves St Laurent's geometry is there, next to rather less jazzy plains and stripes—not that the St Laurent looks jazzy in the right environment. There are some very good plain, wide striped materials with a slight sheen that is not a shine, and these look well lined. There are Jacobean, there are checks and there are florals, florals, florals. There are few plains because few want them, but there are some. If you are looking for the exotic, the outlandish, the ultra-modern, the over-stated, do not go there but go and be prepared to order if you want livable-with, well-made curtains. It is undoubtedly worth a visit to the free making-up in any case, since you can always leave if you cannot find what you want. They are inordinately proud of their tree of cushions made from factory remnants.

I make no apologies for giving Herald so much space, only to those readers who will still have to wait for local branches. Ask for your local, or get your name put on a list for being mailed when one does open near you, by writing to Mr William Bennett, Herald Curtain Shops, Tafford Road, Tottenham, London, N17 (01-801 6181), which is the factory. One point—they told me they were trying to do in their specialist business what Marks and Spencer and Mothercare had done in theirs and I say they have not only made a good job of it but have added service ideas of their own. As for the fabrics—the ranges are similar to those you would find at most John Lewis branches though perhaps somewhat smaller. If you want to phone for your branch today—Saturday—ring up the Maidenhead branch (0628 21815). The factory responds on Monday. Or try your telephone book.



Ventronic's leaflet carries the headline "The first in the world". But, before you expect me to write of some space-age marvel, let me tell you that the Ventronic is a 2.5, room heater, air cleaner, humidifier and so forth. Yes, you know them and so do I. You have never seen them as Ventronic does them.

First, the safety. Ventronic is foolproof from this point of view, so safe that you cannot open a single part without the whole thing switching off. Second, it is so simple you can buy one unit at a time if you want and they all clip or slot together so that there is automatic mating of power through from one unit to the next while you attach units merely by sliding rectangular "rings" into slotted grooves so that interlocking is as neat as for a couple of space-craft.

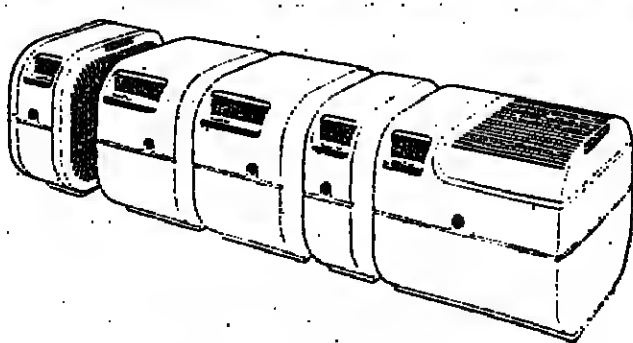
Ventronic is designed on the basis that one motor can drive a multitude of units so we start with the basic fan. It was in-

tended as the drive but, when demonstrated to groups of housewives, they wanted to buy it for itself, solely as a fan, because it looks so new and so neat, so original and so unobtrusive. Furthermore, the way all the components come apart is terrific—even the blower unit and the motor part company with a click. It makes servicing a new concept since all you would ever need to do is to click out one part and drop it into the retailer, the result being inevitably cheaper as an on-the-spot replacement than any repair involving a house-call. So there is the fan, a kind of rounded square with no corners and a tucked-away plinth, in really tough high-impact plastic finished in a bronze colour that looks well against the black trim and components. Use it on shelf or table, on floor or anywhere since, unlike other fans, it has a washable filter mat to trap dust particles. It has two speeds—Com-

fort and Boost—and works at reasonable sound levels. It cannot be described as noisy but obviously rushing air makes a noise.

The price is the only bad news, since it is £32. Now that is dear for a mere fan but, although some people have bought it as such for the extra safety and its appearance, it is not a mere fan. It can be married to power the Air Steriliser with its ultra-violet "C" lamps to avoid a room full of bacteria, viruses, spores, mould and suchlike so that you breathe only purity. This one is naturally expensive at £167.63 (all prices include VAT) because anything that purifies air to this extent must be.

The Ventronic has more—it also incorporates a fan heater which, for the first time that I have heard of, cleans as it heats so that you get your air clean as well as warm. The price of this unit is a mere



£15.66 and, let me stress it again, you do not have to buy every component. Thus, with the basic fan and this cleaner-heater you have a unit totalling £48.94 which gives you clean warm air.

The humidifier unit is £34.88 and, once more, can be used alone with the basic fan unit or with both it and the cleaner-heater. The humidifier has a goodly tank, washable filter to trap anything you do not wish

to breathe, a black grille top to emit the moistened air, and it, too, comes apart so simply for cleaning or washing up by hand or machine that you will marvel when you see it. The Ventronic air conditioner is £55.88 and it is a highly sophisticated one with a split-unit system with cooler, refrigerator, compressor and all that you need for cool, clean air. It is really silent in operation so you are not adding noise to

noise as you add unit to unit. And then we have the air purifier at £100. Six modules of which you can use any permutation from one to six according to your needs.

Thus you can spend £32 or £98. Originally for the industrial, commercial and institutional market, Ventronic is rapidly being bought for domestic use. It is such a compact unit, even when all six modules are fastened together, and so versatile because each can be separately switched, detached, left together or what you will. Lifting off any one hood cuts off energy right through all units and the whole thing works off the ordinary electric plug. It takes up little space and creates little noise, not the kind of noise that could be heard in a room sufficiently full of people for the purifying or whatever to be necessary.

Made by a Swiss company that has been specializing in air

treatments for some time, the Ventronic is a relative newcomer to Britain and certainly a newcomer to the domestic scene. It is being marketed nationally through Ventronic UK, 305 Mile End Road, Colchester CO4 5EA, Essex (Colchester G3544). However, until demonstrations and deliveries to retailers are widespread, one of the first retailers has bought a pretty big smck and is supplying some of his colleagues as a kind of wholesaler—nice to see them working together in the customers' interests rather than against each other. That one retailer is a man of whom I am a staunch champion from way back, one Walter Pipe, who runs the Dishwasher Centre, 37 Pembroke Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3HG (01-727 4894).

Some keen eyes may notice that his place is now called The Clean Air Centre (same address etc). And that is because so

many customers have been buying clean air appliances he started stocking them, which I wrote about early year, and the inexpensive Monitor. Asthma and hay sufferers, spread the word added their numbers to any who just like breathing in anyway and homes all London and greater London beginning to be pure and Mrs Whitehouse, please.

Actually I owe Mr Pipe an apology—having called Kenneth in print soon after my own new dish after years of stout service its predecessor, Walter found himself being called the wrong name so may that right? He will answer queries about Ventronic would recommend your to get in to see one of photographs really do not justice. Stockists are added all the time so do for one near you.

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